

Stepping Down

Ferguson Police Chief Resigning Amid Criticism

Police Chief Thomas Jackson discusses the fatal shooting of Michael Brown during a news conference in Ferguson, Mo., in August 2014. Jackson, who has become the focus of bitter complaints over racial profiling by his department, announced his resignation on Wednesday, March 11.

(Whitney Curtis/The New York Times)

JOHN ELIGON

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FERGUSON, Mo. - The embattled police chief of Ferguson, the focus of bitter complaints of racial discrimination within his department that turned into national protests after one of his white officers

fatally shot an unarmed black teenager last August, has stepped down, Mayor James Knowles III said Wednesday at a news conference.

The resignation will be effective March 19, Knowles said, and the job will be filled temporarily while a

search is conducted for a successor.

The chief, Thomas Jackson, who took over the Ferguson Police Department five years ago, becomes the latest high-ranking city official to fall in the wake of a scathing Justice Department report that accused

the city of using its Municipal Court and police force as moneymaking tools that routinely violated constitutional rights and disproportionately targeted blacks. The municipal judge and city manager, as well as the top court clerk and two police supervisors, have

stepped down in the wake of the report's release last week.

Jackson will receive a severance payment of about \$96,000 along with health insurance for a year, Knowles said. Lt. Col.

Continued on page 4

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Iran parliament speaker in Qatar tries to allay Arab concern

ABDULLAH REBHY

Associated Press

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — In an attempt to allay Arab concerns about his country's role in the region, Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani said Wednesday that Tehran's assistance to the Iraqi people in confronting the extremist Islamic State group, has prevented more countries from being threatened by IS terrorism. Larijani spoke Wednesday at a press conference in the Qatari capital of Doha

after meeting with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani; a day earlier he met Kuwaiti ruler Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. Iran shares the world's largest gas field with Qatar in the Persian Gulf, and has economic relations with Kuwait.

He said that Tehran was asked by Iraq's government to help them fight the IS group, which has taken over about a third of Iraq and neighboring Syria. Iran and the Shiite militias it sup-

ports are leading the battle to dislodge the militant Islamic group from the Iraqi city of Tikrit. Its increasingly hands-on role in Iraq has both left the U.S. and Gulf Arab nations wary as they carry out their own parallel campaign against IS fighters. Larijani said he spoke with Qatar's emir about the security situation in Libya, Syria, Iraq and Yemen, where a rebel Shiite group has overrun the capital.

Qatar and Kuwait are members of a six-nation

bloc of Gulf Arab countries that have accused Iran of interfering in neighboring Yemen. In an apparent reference to regional rival Saudi Arabia, Larijani said the crisis in Yemen should not be handled with bias against certain groups, but through dialogue.

Some media in Saudi Arabia have suggested that Iran sent military personnel to Yemen to help the rebels overthrow the Saudi and U.S.-backed Yemeni president — who has since fled

to the southern port city of Aden. Larijani insisted that Iran has no ground forces in Yemen.

He also downplayed recent comments by Ali Younesi, one of more than a dozen advisers to Iranian President Hassan Rouhani. Younesi was quoted in Iranian media on Sunday saying Iran and Iraq are united and essentially part of Tehran's sphere of influence. Larijani said Iran's policy is based on peaceful co-existence and Islamic unity. □

IMF approves \$17.5 billion credit program for Ukraine

PETER LEONARD

Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — The International Monetary Fund agreed Wednesday to extend \$17.5 billion in loans to Ukraine as part of a program designed to pull the country back from the verge of economic collapse.

IMF managing director Christine Lagarde said in a statement that the new four-year extended arrangement will support economic stabilization and wide-ranging reforms in Ukraine.

Ukraine's Finance Minister Natalie Jaresko said earlier in the day that the government expected to receive \$5 billion from the IMF in the "coming days."

Credit is being extended on condition that the government in Kiev implements deep structural reforms and slashes government spending.

On Tuesday, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko signed off on legislative measures to drastically



Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, right, and Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven shake hands during the meeting in Kiev, Ukraine, Wednesday, March 11, 2015.

(AP Photo/Sergei Chuzavkov)

reduce spending and also approved changes to the tax system.

"This fully carries out Ukraine's side of the agreements that were reflected in a memorandum with the IMF," Poroshenko said

Wednesday at a joint press conference in Kiev with Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven.

Lagarde hailed Ukraine's "strong commitment to reform."

"They have maintained fis-

cal discipline in very difficult conditions, allowed the exchange rate to adjust, and have increased retail end-user prices for gas," she said in a statement.

Lagarde said measures would be taken to help

cushion the poorest from the impact of adjustments. In Washington, the White House welcomed the IMF's decision.

"The United States is working alongside international partners to provide Ukraine with the financial support it needs as it continues to take steps that will transform the Ukrainian economy and strengthen its democracy," White House spokesman Josh Earnest said in a statement.

Utility prices have risen across the board in recent weeks and inflation has taken large chunks out of salaries.

The government budget for 2015 is based on what many analysts believe is an optimistic projection of a 5.5 percent contraction in the economy.

Ukraine's economy, already hamstrung by crippling bureaucracy and corruption, has been further burdened by the war in the east with Russian-backed separatists. □

Dutch must compensate Indonesian war widows, children

MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The Dutch government must pay compensation to widows and children of Indonesian men summarily executed in their country's war for independence, according to a court ruling Wednesday that could open the door to many more claims.

The case is the latest legal battle to focus on atrocities committed by Dutch forces in Indonesia's bitter war for independence in the 1940s.

The Hague District Court ruled that nine elderly women who live in Indonesia and weren't present for the decision are widows "of men unlawfully executed under the responsibility

of the Dutch state" and are entitled to damages.

The nine widows already have reached settlements with the government and received payments of 20,000 euros (\$21,144), their lawyer Liesbeth Zegveld said.

The court said 14 other claims have to be further investigated.

Judges rejected the gov-

ernment's argument that the cases couldn't go ahead because the statute of limitations had expired. It also ruled that the children of executed men are entitled to compensation.

"There is no good reason in the law to exclude the children, which is a huge step forward," said Zegveld.

In 2013, the Dutch government apologized for atroci-

ties committed by its forces in fighting between 1945, when Indonesia declared its independence from Dutch colonial rule, and 1949, when the Netherlands finally recognized Indonesia's independence. The Dutch foreign ministry said it was studying the judgment, but added it "wants to carefully deal with all claims." □

US general: US worries about Iran-backed militias in Iraq

DEB RIECHMANN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Iran is playing a helpful role against Islamic State militants in Iraq now, but once the extremists are vanquished, Tehran-backed militias could undermine efforts to unify the country, the top U.S. military officer said Wednesday.

Army Gen. Martin Dempsey told lawmakers that any move to counter IS is a "positive thing." But he said there are worries about whether those Shiite militias will later turn against Sunni or Kurdish Iraqis and hamper efforts to bridge ethnic and political divisions that have made peace elusive in Iraq.

"We are all concerned about what happens after the drums stop beating and ISIL is defeated, and whether the government of Iraq will remain on a path to provide an inclusive government for all of the various groups within it," Dempsey said, using an acronym for the militant group.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said officials are watching to see whether the militias, after recapturing lost ground, "engage in acts of retribution and ethnic cleansing." At this point, "there is no indication that that is a widespread event."

Dempsey joined Secretary of State John Kerry and Defense Secretary Ash Carter in testifying for more than three hours at a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing called to examine President Barack Obama's proposal for new war powers to fight IS, which holds about one-third of Iraq and neighboring Syria.

The Republican committee chairman, Sen. Bob Corker, lamented that Obama's proposal does not give the U.S. military clear authority to defend moderate forces training for the Syrian fight from the bombing risk by troops loyal to Syrian President Bashar Assad.

Dempsey cited "active discussion" about the kind

of support "we would supply once the new Syrian forces are fielded."

Carter later told reporters at the Pentagon that the U.S. will have "some obligation" to support the moderates as they take on IS and face possible attacks from Assad.

"We all understand that," Carter said. "And we're working through what kinds of support and under what conditions we would do so, to include the possibility that, even though they're trained and equipped to combat ISIL, they could come into contact with forces of the Assad regime." Carter and Dempsey's comments opened the door to possible U.S. military action against Assad forces, if needed, to protect moderate rebels during a clash with regime troops. Obama has ruled out U.S. troops in ground combat in Syria.

On the issue of new powers to fight IS, the three witnesses defended the proposal that Obama submitted to Congress last month. The legislation, once finalized, would set up the first war vote in Congress in 13 years.

Carter said Obama's draft would allow U.S. military force against IS for three years. That would give the next president and Congress the chance to reauthorize it, if needed. He said there are no geographical restrictions included in the proposal because IS has shown signs of activity beyond Syria and Iraq. Under Obama's proposal, the fight could extend to any "closely related successor entity" to IS. The administration has ruled out any "enduring" offensive combat operations. Carter said the plan "does not authorize long-term, large-scale offensive ground combat operations like those we conducted in Iraq and Afghanistan, because our strategy does not call for them," Carter said. "Instead, local forces must provide the enduring presence needed for an enduring victory." □



Joint Chief Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, March 11, 2015, before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Three of America's top national security officials face questions on Capitol Hill about new war powers being drafted to fight Islamic State militants, Iran's sphere of influence and hotspots across the Mideast.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)



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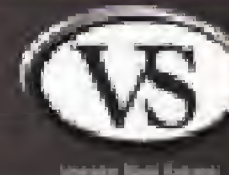
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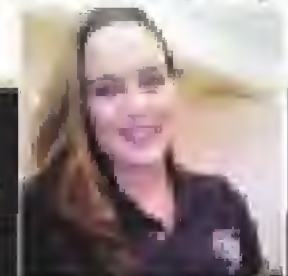
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Ferguson police chief resigning amid criticism

Continued from Front

Alan Eickhoff, who joined the force in August, will serve as interim chief, the mayor said.

Questions, however, remain over the future of the city's Police Department. Some residents and political leaders have said that it should be dissolved and that the St. Louis County Police Department should take over, as it has with other surrounding municipalities. Four of Ferguson's 54 police officers are black. Ferguson officials must still decide whether they will reach a settlement with the Justice Department or go to court to challenge some of the reforms that federal officials have requested be made to the Police Department and Municipal Court.

From the time that Officer Darren Wilson fatally shot Michael Brown, Jackson has been under intense scrutiny.

He said in the early days of unrest that he felt his department had a good relationship with the community. But many residents of Ferguson and surrounding communities used the killing as a springboard to raise larger issues of discriminatory policing and judicial actions that they said had been rampant in Ferguson and nearby towns for years.

Last year, after the Missouri

State Police took charge of the city's policing during the sometimes violent demonstrations and calm returned briefly to the city's streets, Jackson released surveillance footage that appeared to show Brown robbing a convenience

apology to Brown's family. That same night, he attempted to join demonstrators in the streets, but only worsened tensions.

In the months following Brown's death, local and federal officials tried to get Jackson to step aside, but

the report said that black motorists and pedestrians received a disproportionately high number of those tickets.

"City and police leadership pressure officers to write citations, independent of any public safety need,

the city's finance director, wrote to the chief that "unless ticket writing ramps up significantly before the end of the year, it will be hard to significantly raise collections next year. What are your thoughts?" according to the report.

The chief responded that fines would increase once the city hired more officers and that he was considering a different shift schedule that would put more officers on the street to increase traffic enforcement. The following year, when Jackson reported to John Shaw, then the city manager, that court revenue for February 2011 was more than \$179,000, the highest monthly total in four years, Shaw responded in an email, "Wonderfull!" the Justice report said.

On the day the Justice report came out, the city fired its Municipal Court clerk for having sent racist emails that were outlined in the report; two police supervisors later resigned for also having sent racist emails.

A few days later, the municipal judge, Ronald J. Brockmeyer, resigned as the state moved all of Ferguson's cases to be handled by a state appellate judge. And on Tuesday, the City Council voted 7-0 in favor of a "mutual separation" with Shaw, who as manager, was the city's chief executive for eight years. □



Toriano Johnson, right, chats with Demetrius Patterson while working at the Prime Time Barber Shop on West Florissant Avenue in Ferguson, Mo., March 7, 2015. For all the sweeping changes following the fatal shooting of Michael Brown, Ferguson is in many ways still a city in trauma. "You try to forget about it, but in some kind of way — conversation or some kind of way — it's going to come up," said Johnson.

(Whitney Curtis/The New York Times)

store shortly before he was killed. That revelation reignited tensions, and new clashes between police and protesters ended with clouds of tear-gas.

About a month and a half after the shooting, Jackson tried to calm tensions when he released a videotaped

he staunchly refused.

The chief's reputation was dealt another blow in the Justice report, which said that, at the urging of Ferguson's manager and finance director, Jackson sought to meet revenue goals through increased ticketing. Data cited in

and rely on citation productivity to fund the City budget," the report said. The Justice Department also said that Wilson broke no federal crimes in the shooting.

In an email from March 2010, the year Jackson took his post, Jeffrey Blume,



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US fraternity member: Racist chant was 'horrible mistake'

DALLAS (AP) — A former University of Oklahoma fraternity member who was shown in a video chanting a racial slur has issued an apology, as have the parents of a second student. The apologies came after OU President David Boren expelled the two students who appeared to be leading the chant. He did not release their names. Boren said others involved would face discipline.

Protests and rallies have been held every day on the campus in Norman since the release earlier this week of the video.

The chant referenced lynching and indicated black students would never be admitted to OU's chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. A fraternity is a social organization of male college students.

In a statement Tuesday, former OU student Parker Rice called the incident "a horrible mistake" and "a devastating lesson" for which he is "seeking guidance on how I can learn from this and make sure it never happens again."

"I am deeply sorry for what I did Saturday night," Rice said in a statement emailed to The Associated Press by his father. "It was wrong and reckless."

A Dallas-area advocacy group, the Next Generation Action Network, said a peaceful protest was planned at Rice's family home.

The Rev. Dominique Alexander, who leads the group, said protesters want to send a message: "We're not going to stand for that."

Dallas police Maj. Jimmy Vaughan police will monitor the protest and make



University of Oklahoma students march to the now closed University of Oklahoma's Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity house during a rally in Norman, Okla., Tuesday, March 10, 2015. The university's president expelled two students Tuesday after he said they were identified as leaders of a racist chant captured on video during a fraternity event. (AP Photo/Sue Ogrocki)

sure traffic isn't blocked along the residential street. Officers and media have been at the house, but the family doesn't appear to be there.

Meanwhile, the parents of another student seen in

the video, Levi Pettit, released a statement saying, "he made a horrible mistake, and will live with the consequences forever."

Rice said in his statement that he withdrew from the university Monday. The

statement from Pettit's parents did not address his status with the university.

Rice said threatening calls to his family have prompted them to leave their Texas home. He said Saturday's incident was "likely

was fueled by alcohol," but "that's not an excuse."

"Yes, the song was taught to us, but that too doesn't work as an explanation. It's more important to acknowledge what I did and what I didn't do. I didn't say 'no,'" his statement said. Pettit's parents, Brody and Susan Pettit, said in a statement posted online that their son "is a good boy, but what we saw in those videos is disgusting." The Pettits apologized "to the entire African-American community (and) University of Oklahoma student body and administration." Also Tuesday, Beaton Gilbow, the fraternity's "house mom," issued a statement that addressed a video from 2013 showing her repeating a racial slur as music plays in the background. Gilbow said she was singing along to a song. She said she was "heartbroken" by the portrayal that she was racist but understood how the video must appear in the context of the week's events. □

Firing squad vote shows frustration with drug shortages

**B. McCOMBS
L. WHITEHURST
Associated Press**

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A vote by Utah lawmakers to bring back executions by firing squad is the most dramatic illustration yet of the nationwide frustration over bungled executions and shortages of lethal-injection drugs.

Utah and several other states are scrambling to modify their laws on the heels of a botched Oklahoma lethal injection last year and one in Arizona in which the condemned

man took nearly two hours to die. Meanwhile, Texas executed a Mexican mafia hit man Wednesday evening with its second-to-last dosage of drugs.

Utah Gov. Gary Herbert has declined to say if he will sign the firing-squad bill, a decision that's not expected for a week or so. "States are wondering which way to go, and one way is to send up a warning flag that if you don't allow us freedom in this lethal-injection area, we'll do something else," said Richard Dieter, executive

director of the Washington, D.C.-based Death Penalty Information Center, which opposes capital punishment. "This might be a message rather than a preferred route of punishment."

States have struggled to keep up their drug inventories as European manufacturers opposed to capital punishment refuse to sell the components of lethal injections to U.S. prisons. The Texas deadline is the most imminent, but other states are struggling, too. The Utah bill's sponsor, Rep.

Paul Ray, argues that a team of trained marksmen is faster and more humane than the drawn-out deaths involved when lethal injections go awry.

Though Utah's next execution is probably a few years away, Ray said Wednesday that he wants to settle on a backup method now so authorities are not racing to find a solution if the drug shortage drags on.

Opponents, however, said firing squads are a cruel holdover from another era and will earn the state international condemnation. □

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Secret Service investigating agents' crash near White House

ALICIA A. CALDWELL
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — The Homeland Security Department is investigating two senior Secret Service agents accused of crashing a car into a White House security barrier, an agency spokesman said Wednesday, in the latest embarrassment for the agency tasked with protecting the president. Secret Service spokesman Robert Hoback said recently appointed Director Joseph Clancy has been briefed on the March 4 incident. Clancy

has asked the Homeland Security Department's Inspector General's Office to investigate the incident. Hoback did not provide additional details. The agency said the two agents have been reassigned to non-supervisory, non-operational jobs. The Washington Post first reported the investigation Wednesday afternoon. The newspaper reported that the agents drove a government car into a security barrier near the White House after a night of drinking.

The Post reported that one of the agents involved is Mark Connolly, the second-in-command on President Barack Obama's security detail. The newspaper identified the other agent as George Ogilvie, a senior supervisor in the Washington field office. The leaders of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee — Republican chairman Jason Chaffetz and top Democrat Elijah Cummings— issued a statement Wednesday evening saying, "The fact

that this event involved senior-level agents is not only embarrassing but exhibits a clear lack of judgment in a potentially dangerous situation." In the last six months, several top agency officials, including former Director Julian Pierson, have been forced out amid revelations of multiple, serious presidential security breaches. In September, a Texas man armed with a knife was able to climb a White House fence and run deep into the executive mansion before being apprehended.

An internal investigation and an outside panel report both described serious problems within the agency. A four-member panel of former senior government officials concluded in a report released last year that the agency was too insular and starving for leadership. The panel recommended an agency outsider to replace Pierson, but Obama earlier this year tapped Clancy, a retired agent who led the agency on an interim basis after Pierson's ouster. □

1 Black Hawk crashed in fog, killing 11; Another turned back

MELISSA GABRIEL
Associated Press
EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Florida (AP) — Searchers struggled Wednesday to find the seven Marines and four soldiers killed when a helicopter crashed, hampered by the same fog that plagued a nighttime training mission. A second helicopter turned back safely shortly before the wreck, which left debris washing ashore along the Florida coast, officials said. Military officials haven't said what caused the crash of the UH-60 Black Hawk, but the weather was bad enough for the other crew to return to land, said Maj. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard. The helicopter that crashed had a veteran that served multiple tours in Iraq and helped humanitarian missions after Gulf Coast hurricanes and the BP oil spill. They were carrying unconventional warriors from the



Deputy Richard Aloy, public information officer for the Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office, is surrounded by cameras as he speaks to reporters at command post in Navarre, Fla., Wednesday, March 11, 2015 about ongoing search efforts for an Army Black Hawk helicopter that crashed Tuesday evening near this Florida panhandle community. (AP Photo/Devon Ravine)

Marines Special Operations Command. Like the Army's Green Berets and the Navy's SEALs, they were highly trained to endure grueling conditions and sensitive assignments on land and

at sea, from seizing ships to special reconnaissance missions and direct action inside hostile territory. Tuesday night's training involved practicing "insertion and extraction missions,"

using small boats and helicopters to get troops into and out of a target site, said Capt. Barry Morris, spokesman for the Marine Corps Special Operations Command at Camp Lejeune,

North Carolina. President Barack Obama expressed his condolences to the families and said he's confident of a detailed and thorough investigation, said his spokesman, Josh Earnest. Kim Urr, 62, who works at the Navarre Beach campground near the Eglin Air Force Base training area, said she heard a strange sound, followed by two explosions around 8:30 p.m. Tuesday. "It sounded like something metal either being hit or falling over, that's what it sounded like. And there were two booms afterward, similar to what you hear with ordnance booms, but more muffled," Urr said. Human remains were found Wednesday before the weather deteriorated again, and all 11 service members were presumed killed. But it was still considered a search and rescue mission. □



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US Financial Front:

Wall Street bonuses rose just 2 percent in 2014

WILLIAM ALDEN

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Wall Street bonuses just aren't what they used to be.

As the industry's profits declined, the average bonus for Wall Street employees grew just 2 percent in 2014, to \$172,860, according to a report on Wednesday by Thomas P. DiNapoli, the New York state comptroller. Although still large by many standards, these bonuses grew far more slowly than in the previous two years.

The sluggish growth reflects the challenges still facing Wall Street, including choppy markets and new regulations that have reined in profit to some extent. The industry added 2,300 jobs in New York City in 2014, after two years of job losses, but the number of jobs in the sector is still much smaller than before the 2008 financial crisis.

The comptroller's office uses tax withholding data to track Wall Street pay, which it says is a crucial contributor to the state's economy. A range of businesses, including restaurants and luxury real estate, pin their fortunes on Wall

Street bonuses. DiNapoli estimates that each new job on Wall Street leads to the creation of two other jobs in other industries in the city.

This economic engine, however, has not exactly been humming. The number of jobs on Wall Street last year, 167,800, remains below the level of 188,300 in 2007, according to the latest report. While much of the city has bounced back from the recession, Wall Street - traditionally a major driver of economic recoveries - has not led the way.

DiNapoli struck an optimistic note on Wednesday, pointing to the 1.4 percent gain in jobs in 2014, though he tempered his remarks with caution.

"Maybe we're seeing a delayed resurgence on the Street that will contribute to the economic recovery," he said. But he added that it "remains to be seen whether this trend can and will be sustained in the coming year."

Bonuses are a closely watched barometer of Wall Street's health, often rising in good times and falling when revenue is

tight. In 2013, the average bonus rose 19 percent, to \$169,850, from the previous year, according to a revised estimate by the

comptroller on Wednesday. Still, the year-to-year fluctuations of bonuses are also influenced by somewhat arcane factors, like the widely used policy of deferring a portion of compensation. The 2013 figures

included an unspecified amount of pay that had been awarded in earlier years, making bonuses appear larger.



New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli at his offices in Albany, N.Y. As Wall Street's profits declined, the average bonus for Wall Street employees grew just 2 percent in 2014, to \$172,860, according to a report by DiNapoli. (Nathaniel Brooks/The New York Times)

Similarly, the numbers for 2014 do not include compensation that was awarded for that year but not yet paid out. The data also fails to capture stock options. Wall Street's profits have declined for two consecutive years, DiNapoli's office

Exchange - totaled \$16 billion in 2014, a 4.5 percent decline from 2013. That is a far cry from 2009, when the industry's profit, not adjusted for inflation, was more than \$60 billion, according to the comptroller's office. □

Exchange - totaled \$16 billion in 2014, a 4.5 percent decline from 2013. That is a far cry from 2009, when the industry's profit, not adjusted for inflation, was more than \$60 billion, according to the comptroller's office. □

FTC sues DirecTV, saying it misled consumers about costs

REBECCA R. RUIZ

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The Federal Trade Commission is suing DirecTV, the nation's largest provider of satellite television, saying it deceptively advertised costs of a two-year service promotion to consumers. A "substantial portion" of DirecTV's more than 20 million U.S. subscribers were affected, an agency spokesman said Wednesday. And Jessica L. Rich,

director of the agency's bureau of consumer protection, said the FTC was seeking millions of dollars in refunds.

The agency said that the deal was introduced to consumers as a one-year subscription starting at \$19.99 a month, but that the offer required a two-year contract, with escalating monthly costs and a steep cancellation fee.

"DirecTV sought to lock

customers into longer and more expensive contracts and premium packages that were not adequately disclosed," Edith Ramirez, chairwoman of the FTC, said in a statement. "It's a bedrock principle that the key terms of an offer to a consumer must be clear and conspicuous, not hidden in fine print." DirecTV, which is based in California, disputed the allegations.

"The FTC's decision is flat-out wrong, and we will vigorously defend ourselves, for as long as it takes," Darris Gringeri, vice president for public relations of DirecTV, wrote in an email. "We go above and beyond to ensure that every new customer receives all the information they need, multiple times, to make informed and intelligent decisions." In the complaint, filed in

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, the agency said that DirecTV's advertising since 2007 had misled subscribers.

It also said that DirecTV had failed to make clear that the cost of service would increase by up to \$45 a month in the second year, and that consumers would pay up to \$480 to cancel the package before the full two years expired. □

American Politics:

Bush sells his stakes in remaining business commitments

STEVE EDER

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Jeb Bush has sold his stakes in his two remaining business commitments, his spokeswoman

his time and focus from running his business to increasing his political efforts on behalf of conservative candidates and causes," Kristy Campbell, his spokes-

ner in the consulting firm. In the other, he stepped down as chairman of the Britton Hill entities, private investment and advisory firms, selling his interests to

ing his work for Barclays, where, as a consultant to the London-based bank, he was making more than \$1 million a year. Around the same time, Bush relinquished positions with two educational endeavors, including the Foundation for Excellence in Education, which he founded.

As Bush embarks on a likely campaign, his portfolio of recent business enterprises will be closely examined. In the past, political opponents have raised the notion that Bush, a son and brother of former presidents, gained advantages because of his famous family.

In the 2012 presidential campaign, Mitt Romney's Republican competitors as well as Democrats made the business record of Romney, the eventual Republican nominee, a major issue. When Bush left the Florida governor's office after two terms in 2007, he had a net worth of about \$1.3 million - and confided in friends a desire to build his personal wealth, which he could not do as a public servant. In the years since, he has been a regu-

lar paid speaker while also compiling a sizable portfolio of board appointments and business partnerships. In 2007, Bush and his son started Jeb Bush and Associates, organizing it as an advisory firm that provided counsel to a range of companies. The former governor's consulting work included engagements with two doomed businesses, which have drawn scrutiny.

In one case, Bush served as a paid consultant to and on the board of a building materials manufacturer, InnoVida, which went bankrupt and saw its founder sent to prison. In another, he worked as an adviser to Lehman Brothers, engaging in far-flung efforts to save the bank during the financial crisis.

Separately, Bush and associates formed the Britton Hill entities, which through an investment arm have had positions in energy, logistics and real estate. The entities had \$123.3 million in assets, according to their most recent regulatory filing with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. □



Jeb Bush, a former governor of Florida, speaks at the Conservative Political Action Conference in National Harbor, Md. Bush recently sold his stake in one consulting firm and stepped down as chairman of another, a strong signal that he is embarking on a campaign for the White House in 2016. (Jabin Botsford/The New York Times)

said Wednesday, another strong signal that the former Florida governor will embark on a campaign for president.

"This was a natural step as Gov. Bush transitioned

woman, said in a statement.

In one of the transactions, Bush completed the sale of his share of Jeb Bush and Associates to his son, Jeb Bush Jr., who was his part-

an associate.

Those moves follow his resignation late last year from the boards of Tenet Healthcare and Rayonier, a timberland and real estate concern, and end-

Democrats stand by Clinton, but with some reservations

JULIE PACE

KEN THOMAS

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Democrats closed ranks around Hillary Rodham Clinton on Wednesday after her public explanation of her email practices — yet party officials in important election states appeared resigned to the prospect that her all-but-certain presidential campaign will be saddled with drama and controversy.

The mood among Democrats around the country suggested Clinton has work to do to bolster party enthusiasm as she nears the launch of her 2016 campaign, though there's still no sign she'll face a robust primary challenge.

Brady Quirk-Garvan, the Democratic Party chairman in Charleston, South

Carolina, said the intense focus on Clinton's use of her private email account as secretary of state leaves him concerned that side issues could overshadow the party's message.

"Every time we talk about emails, we aren't talking about how to grow the economy and the fact that President Obama has created jobs for the last 60 months straight," Quirk-Garvan said.

Clinton's closest advisers have been quietly reaching out to Democratic leaders and other lawmakers on Capitol Hill, as well as influential progressive groups, in an effort to allay concerns. In conference calls over the past week, supporters in turn pressed Clinton to break her silence on the email disclosures, which she eventually

did Tuesday in a 20-minute news at the United Nations. Even as Clinton's advisers do status checks with wary Democrats, her team has been moving forward with plans to formally announce her candidacy next month. Newly hired staff members are moving to New York, where the campaign will be headquartered.

Still, the email issue has essentially served as the Clinton campaign's opening act, thrusting her squarely onto the political playing field she has been trying to avoid. It's also provided fresh fodder for congressional Republicans who want to keep their investigations into the 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya, alive through the presidential campaign.

Rep. Trey Gowdy, the South Carolina Republican

who chairs a House committee investigating the attacks, said Wednesday that he wants an independent review of Clinton's email server. The House Oversight Committee also said it will seek access to the electronic versions of Clinton's emails, not just printed copies, and was prepared to issue a subpoena if necessary.

However, in a sign that the matter isn't shaking up the Democratic primary field, Clinton has faced no public criticism from any of the candidates who seem most likely to challenge her. Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley again passed up an opportunity to weigh in Wednesday. In fact, the party has spent little time cultivating other potential candidates should her bid for the White

House implode.

Clinton described her exclusive use of personal email as secretary of state as a matter of "convenience" and a way to avoid using two devices. She insists she did not violate federal rules requiring government officials to preserve written communications involving official business and says she turned over more than 30,000 work-related emails to the State Department last year, at the agency's request.

That email trove represents half of the communications housed on a personal server, Clinton said. She said that because the rest of the emails were personal in nature, she got rid of them during the process of compiling files for the State Department. □

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Official doubts confessions in Nemtsov case

NEIL MacFARQUHAR

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MOSCOW - A member of the Kremlin's advisory council on human rights said Wednesday that the main suspect in the shooting death of a high-profile opposition figure was most likely forced to confess under duress, and that his two cousins in detention had been tortured.

After visiting the three Chechens, who were among five suspects imprisoned Sunday in Lefortovo Prison in Moscow, Andrei Babushkin, a rights activist, said that the men had suffered multiple injuries after their arrest.

In a summary of the visit posted on the council's website, Babushkin also reported that another man arrested at the same time as Zaur S. Dadayev, the main suspect, had disappeared and said that he had asked Russia's top law enforcement agency to account for his whereabouts.

The 40-member presidential council - officially the Council Under the President of the Russian Federation for the Development of Civil Society and Human Rights - has a reputation for a certain degree of independence and a real interest in some human rights issues like the treatment of prisoners. Not all members sign every statement, but rights experts said overall committee members do serious, trusted work. The report caused an immediate stir in the Russian government. The Investigative Committee, which is responsible for looking into the Feb. 27 killing of the opposition figure, Boris Y. Nemtsov, near the Kremlin, accused Babushkin and Eva Merkacheva, another rights official, of violating the law. □

Iraqi forces, militias sweep into Islamic State-held Tikrit

SAMEER N. YACOB

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi soldiers and allied Shiite militiamen swept into the Islamic State-held city of Tikrit on Wednesday, launching a two-front offensive to squeeze extremists out of Saddam Hussein's hometown in a major test of the troops' resolve.

Explosions and heavy gunfire echoed through Tikrit, a key way station for Iraqi forces trying to expel the

siles as soldiers and militiamen laid down heavy machine gunfire in the neighborhood's dusty streets as downtown Tikrit loomed in the distance, black smoke rising overhead.

Officials quickly established a supply line through the neighborhood to reinforce troops, Salahuddin police Brig. Khayon Rasheed told the state-run Iraqiyya television. Authorities offered no immediate casualty figures, though Iran's state-

in the face of the advance, codenamed "At your service, prophet of Allah."

"The terrorists are seizing the cars of civilians trying to leave the city and they are trying to make a getaway," Rasheed said.

Tikrit, the capital of Salahuddin province, sits on the Tigris River about 130 kilometers (80 miles) north of Baghdad. Several of Saddam's palaces remain there, as do remnants of his now-outlawed Baathist

officials have that said a mission to retake Mosul likely will begin in April or May and involve up to 25,000 Iraqi troops. But the Americans have cautioned the offensive could be delayed. Iranian military advisers have been helping guide Iraqi forces in their advance on Tikrit. Speaking Wednesday on Capitol Hill, U.S. Gen. Martin Dempsey described the militias as "Iranian trained and somewhat Iranian equipped."

Among those directing operations is Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani, commander of the powerful Revolutionary Guard's Quds Force. Frontline images have emerged of the general in recent days, showing him smiling in plainclothes without a bulletproof vest.

The overt Iranian role and the prominence of Shiite militias in the campaign have raised fears of possible sectarian cleansing should Tikrit, an overwhelmingly Sunni city, fall to the government troops.

"Iranians will try to calm the fears of the Sunnis instead of persecuting them because the Iranian officials know that it is in their best interest to keep the Iraq united," said Hadi Jalo, a Baghdad-based political analyst. "For the Iranians, it is easier to dominate one country instead of three separate states."

The U.S. says its allied coalition carrying out airstrikes targeting the extremists has not been involved in the ongoing Tikrit offensive. Iraq's Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has appealed for more aid for his country's beleaguered ground forces, though the U.S. spent billions of dollars training and equipping Iraq's army during its eight-year occupation. □



Mourners chant slogans against the Islamic State group during the funeral procession of three members of a Shiite group, Asaib Ahl al-Haq, or League of the Righteous, who were killed in Tikrit while fighting Islamic militants, in Najaf, 100 miles (160 kilometers) south of Baghdad, Iraq. Iranian-backed Shiite militias and Sunni tribes have joined Iraq's military in a major operation to retake Tikrit from the Islamic State group.
(AP Photo/Jaber al-Helo)

militants who hold roughly a third of the country and neighboring Syria. The offensive also will serve as a major crucible for Iraqi forces, which collapsed under the extremists' initial offensive last year and now face street-by-street fighting in one of the Islamic State group's biggest strongholds.

Allied Iraqi forces first entered the city through its northern Qadisiyya neighborhood, according to video obtained by The Associated Press. Overhead, an attack helicopter fired mis-

run Press TV satellite channel reported that a mortar attack wounded one of its cameramen there.

A local official in Iraq's Salahuddin province confirmed that Iraqi troops entered Qadisiyya and raised the Iraqi flag over Tikrit's general hospital. He spoke on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to brief journalists.

Later Wednesday, allied forces also swept into Tikrit from the south in a pincer movement to squeeze out militants, though some suggested many already fled

party. Many believe party members assisted the Islamic State group in its offensive last summer.

After the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, insurgent Baathists in Tikrit launched attacks on American forces. The same could happen to incoming Iraqi forces, who already faced sniper fire and heavily mined roads.

Taking Tikrit would open a supply line for a future operation to besiege Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city that remains under Islamic State control. U.S. military

Gunmen stage jewel heist on French highway

ANGELA CHARLTON

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — About 15 gunmen ambushed two vans carrying jewels worth millions on a French highway in the dead of night, ejecting their drivers and speeding off into the Burgundy countryside, police said. It was the latest of several big jewelry heists in France. Unusually this time, the attackers chose a moving target instead of one of France's many high-end jewelry boutiques. To pull it off, experts said, the gang must have been tightly organized and well-informed, possibly thanks to an inside source with knowledge of the vans' movements. The assailants and the jewels remained missing Wednesday evening, even after gendarmes and other authorities spent hours combing the forests and towns southeast of Paris around the scene of the overnight attack.

The vans were slowing down to approach a tollbooth on the A6 highway connecting Paris and Lyon when four cars apparently surrounded them and forced them to stop, a security official said. No one was injured, and the drivers of the two vans were left at the scene unharmed, a police official said. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to be publicly named. The perpetrators then escaped in four cars and the two vans, which police later found burned

and abandoned about 50 kilometers (30 miles) away, the police official said. Forensic investigators in white suits examined the area around the charred vans Wednesday amid vineyards in the town of Quenne. It's unclear where the attackers were heading. After hours

they "don't usually attack trucks." That network has been credited with a series of thefts that Interpol says have netted more than 330 million euros since 1999. France itself sees about five or six jewelry heists a year, Bauer said. "That's actually low, historically. Ten or 20 years ago, we had two or

across the Seine River and they took a hostage before surrendering. Last month, eight people were convicted in connection with a spectacular 2008 jewel theft at a Harry Winston boutique in Paris, when three cross-dressing gunmen stole about \$92 million in goods, aided by



Burnt out vans stand near the Avallon motorway exit in central France, Wednesday, March 11, 2015. A police official says 15 armed assailants attacked two vans on a French highway carrying millions of euros worth of jewels, and sped away. The official says the two vans were found burned in a forest near the site of the attack, which happened on the A6 highway connecting Paris and Lyon. The jewels were not found.

(AP Photo)

of searches failed to locate them, authorities concentrated on their investigation into the attack, which was handed to the French police agency overseeing organized crime. No suspects have been named. Alain Bauer, a professor of criminology, said Wednesday's heist did not appear to fit the pattern of attacks by the Pink Panthers gang of jewel thieves because

three times more," he said. The number has diminished because French authorities have dismantled several jewelry theft networks. Today, Bauer said, most of the teams staging heists in France are coming from the Balkans or elsewhere in eastern Europe. In November, two gunmen robbed a Cartier jewelry boutique in a tony, tourist-filled Paris neighborhood. Police chased them

a security guard. In 2013, southeast France was hit with a spate of jewelry thefts, including two in Cannes during the city's famed film festival. In one, a gunman walked into a jewel show at the Carlton International Hotel, stole \$136 million in loot, and disappeared down a side street in one of the most lucrative jewelry heists ever. No one has been convicted in the case. □

Court scraps Dutch data law on privacy concerns

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — A judge scrapped the Netherlands' data retention law Wednesday, saying that while it helps solve crimes it also breaches the privacy of telephone and Internet users.

The ruling by a judge in The Hague followed a similar decision in April by the European Union's top court that wiped out EU data collection legislation it deemed too broad and offering too few privacy

safeguards. The Security and Justice Ministry said it was considering an appeal. Under the Dutch law, telephone companies were required to store information about all fixed and mobile phone calls for a year. Internet providers had to store information on their clients' Internet use for six months.

The written judgment by Judge G.P. van Ham conceded that scrapping the data

storage "could have far-reaching consequences for investigating and prosecuting crimes" but added that this could not justify the privacy breaches the law entails.

The judge did not set a deadline for disposing of the data.

Privacy First, one of the organizations that took the government to court, said the ruling "will bring to an end years of massive privacy breaches" in the

Netherlands.

The government said after last year's European court ruling that it would amend its law.

In a written statement, the Security and Justice Ministry said it regretted the court's decision.

"Providers are no longer required to store data for investigations," the statement said. "The ministry is seriously concerned about the effect this will have on fighting crime." □

Berlusconi cheers his 'bunga bunga' victory, but bitter

NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Former Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi savored his court victory in the infamous "bunga bunga" case Wednesday by plunging headfirst into politics, saying he's working for a better Italy even though he remains barred from public office.

Italy's highest court late Tuesday confirmed Berlusconi's acquittal on charges he paid an underage Moroccan prostitute for sex and then used his influence to cover it up. The ruling closed an embarrassing chapter for the billionaire media mogul, exposing the raunchy parties at his Milan mansion, complete with showgirl strip-teases and wads of cash paid to guests in envelopes at the end of each party.

In a statement Wednesday, Berlusconi cheered the decision but expressed bitterness "for a case that did a lot of damage not just to me, my family and other innocent people, but to all Italians, our public life and the image of our country in the world."

He also praised the judges who cleared him as "courageous and independent"—an unusual nod given Berlusconi's frequent complaint that Italy's judiciary is politicized and full of communists.

The Court of Cassation decision gave the three-time premier a welcome boost for his party, Forza Italia, which has been lagging in the polls with about 14 percent of the vote ahead of regional elections in May. "Now that this sad chapter has been archived, I'm back with Forza Italia and the center-right to build a better, more just and free Italy," Berlusconi said in a message to supporters. Forza Italia has been hobbled by Berlusconi's legal woes, infighting and defections. The most damning blow came in 2013, when Berlusconi lost his Senate seat due to a tax fraud conviction. □

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Flight attendant suing Korean Air in 'nut rage' case

CHOE SANG-HUN

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SEOUL, South Korea - A Korean Air flight attendant who said she was abused by an airline vice president in what became internationally known as a case of nut rage has filed suit in New York against the airline and the former executive, who is serving a prison sentence in South Korea.

The flight attendant, Kim Do-hee, said she was verbally and physically assaulted by the executive, Cho Hyun-ah, after serving her macadamia nuts on a South Korea-bound flight that was taxiing at Kennedy International Airport on Dec. 5. Cho, who said the nuts should have been served on a plate, ordered the plane back to its gate so Kim's supervisor could be removed.

Cho, whose father is Korean Air's chairman, lost her job and became an object of international scorn after the episode. Last month, a South Korean court convicted her of violating aviation safety law and sentenced her to a year in prison.

Kim's lawsuit, filed Monday in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Queens County, seeks to hold Cho "civilly responsible for the extensive damage that she has caused to Ms. Kim's career, reputation, and emotional well-being," according to a statement released Tuesday by her lawyers. The suit also alleges that Kim was pressured to lie to South Korean regulators about the incident and to appear in public with Cho as part of an effort to rehabilitate her public image. □

Soy sauce makes 'miracle' comeback in Japan

YURI KAGEYAMA

AP Business Writer

RIKUZENTAKATA, Japan

(AP) — When the tsunami warning sounded, workers at the two-centuries-old soy sauce maker in northeastern Japan ran up a nearby hill to a shrine for safety, and watched in disbelief as towering waters swallowed their factory.

They all believed the business, started in 1807, and its precious fungal cultures that give soy sauce its unique taste were lost forever. Everyone except for Michihiro Kono, the ninth-generation son of the founding family.

Four years later, Yagisawa Shoten Co. has been saved through Kono's conviction, crowd-funding and the unexpected survival of its vital ingredient.

"If you don't give up, no matter how painful it gets, there will always be a way," said Kono, 41.

The March 11, 2011, tsunami killed nearly 19,000 people and set off meltdowns at a nuclear plant in the prefecture of Fukushima. In Rikuzentakata, Iwate Prefecture, where Yagisawa is based, nearly 1,800 people were killed as sweeping waters reached as high as 17 meters (55 feet). Four years later, some 4,000 people still live in temporary housing in Rikuzentakata, mostly makeshift garage-like buildings. Taking over as president from his father shortly after the disaster, Kono kept the company going even when it didn't have a single product to sell. The tsunami wiped out not only the factory but also the entire inventory. The damage was estimated at 220 million yen (\$2 million).

As word of historic Yagisawa's plight spread, it got a

lifeline from crowd-funding site Music Securities Inc. in Tokyo, which raised 150 million yen (\$1.5 million) from sympathizers across the nation. Each supporter gave 10,000 yen (\$100), half of it as investment and half as a straight donation. The company also got some government aid.

"We are a company in the boondocks and so we didn't know that much

lose the mental energy to keep going.

Kiyoko Araki, 55, who lost her sister to the tsunami and still lives in temporary housing, recalled how grateful she was she could keep busy. These days, she is happily packing boxes with bottles of soy sauce for shipment.

A pungent scent wafts from the nearby six-ton vats filled with the dark sauce.

was selling soy sauce again, but products made by other manufacturers. Kono turned an old inn in Rikuzentakata into his office and then built a new factory in a nearby town on land vacated by a school. It began soy production in early 2013.

But resurrecting Yagisawa's soy sauce flavor would not have been possible if the original cultures had



In this March 2015 photo, Michihiro Kono, president of Yagisawa Shoten Co., holds his company's soy sauce bottle, named "the miracle," at his company's new headquarters in Rikuzentakata, Iwate Prefecture, northeastern Japan. The traditional soy sauce maker, destroyed by a giant tsunami four years ago, has made a comeback, defying tsunami-scale odds. The secret lies in the little white bottle which holds the special ingredients that were passed down for decades.

(AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko)

about crowd-funding. We did not have a very good image. We thought of takeovers like vulture funds," said Kono. "But it turned out to be a great system for a company like us."

From the start, Kono kept paying the salaries of his 38 workers, more than half of them women, and initially asked them to do volunteer work, distributing emergency food and clothing to tsunami victims. He believed a person without work would

What's wonderful about soy sauce-making is that it takes so long to make each product, each process requiring handcraft-quality care, Araki said.

"And soy sauce is seasoning every home needs," she said proudly.

Six other Yagisawa employees lost a family member to the tsunami. One employee died while doing his work as a volunteer fireman.

By May 2011, Yagisawa

not been found, mainly by sheer luck.

The cultures were in storage at a university medical research laboratory where Kono had donated them for possible cancer-fighting research. The lab was destroyed by the tsunami, but the containers with the cultures were found nearby by its researchers, intact.

The sauce, made from soy beans and wheat, must sit for two years before it can be sold. □

Mayoral candidate found slain in southern Mexico state

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexican authorities said Wednesday that they found a missing mayoral candidate slain in the southern state of Guerrero, scene of the disappearance of 43 students from a teachers college last fall. State prosecutors said in a statement that the body of Aide Nava Gonzalez, the leftist Democratic Revolution Party's candidate for mayor of the town of

Ahuacuotzingo, was found late Tuesday. Celestino Cesareo, the party's leader in Guerrero, said Nava had been kidnapped Monday from a political event. Nava's husband, who had been mayor of Ahuacuotzingo, was killed last year and her son was kidnapped. Guerrero is one of several Mexican states holding elections for local positions and federal deputies June 7. The state has suffered a

high level of violence attributed to drug trafficking. In September, local police in the Guerrero city of Iguala abducted 43 college students and turned them over to a drug gang that killed them and incinerated their bodies, federal prosecutors allege. The students' parents and their supporters have said they will not allow elections to take place in Guerrero. Elsewhere in the country, in

a rare attack on Mexico's National Statistics Institute, two of the agency's field workers were found dead in the northern border state of Chihuahua. The bodies of the two men were found in a shallow grave in the Sierra Tarahumara mountain township of Urique. The two had been hired by the institute as survey and polling workers for Mexico's 2015 census and had been reported missing March 2.

The institute said Tuesday that relatives had identified both men's bodies. While the mountains of Chihuahua have been the scene of frequent drug gang violence, statistics institute workers had not been targeted previously. However, in recent years, violence in Mexico has begun to affect previously untouched sectors, including teachers, opinion poll employees and environmental inspectors. □

Cuba dissident leader expects to survive referendum vote

ANNE GARCIA
Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — The head of the Cuban dissident group the Ladies in White was poised to survive a referendum on her leadership Wednesday following an internal dispute that sparked demands for her resignation. With more than half of the ballots counted, Berta Soler said she had won support from 108 members, enough to keep her position. The ballots counted came from seven cities outside of the capital, Soler said. Votes still were pending from 103 members in Havana, Pinar del Rio and Ciego de Avila, but nearly all would have to vote against Soler to oust her. Of the ballots already tallied, nine were against Soler and five were counted as blank or abstaining. "This is very important for me," Soler said of Wednesday's vote. "There are many people asking for my resignation, and this is a democratic way of ratifying my position and deciding whether I can con-

tinue as the representative of the Ladies in White." The Ladies in White formed following a 2003 crackdown on Cuban dissenters, with the wives and mothers of 75 jailed activists staging weekly marches along a Havana boulevard clad in white and carrying gladiolas to press for their loved ones' release. While the original activists later were freed and most of the founders have left the group, the Ladies have picked up new members who continue to protest to demand democratic reform and freedom for other inmates they consider political prisoners. Soler came under question after a video surfaced of Ladies at a December meeting shouting down Alejandrina Garcia, a prominent member who had criticized her leadership. "Down with traitors!" "She should leave!" and "We don't want to hear her!" they yelled. The scene resembled the so-called acts of repudiation in which crowds of pro-government counter-

protesters gather to hurl epithets at the Ladies in White during their marches. Members living overseas urged Soler to step down. Last month, she agreed to

has not participated in any of its actions since the confrontation. She accused Soler of expelling members without justification and violating group rules. "I don't agree with what

Cuba officially considers dissidents to be traitors bent on undermining the communist-run government at the behest of foreign interests. The group was honored



Cuban dissident Berta Soler, Ladies in White's spokesperson, speaks to the media during a press conference in the Casa de America, in Madrid, Spain. Soler said Wednesday, March 11, 2015, that she's set to survive a referendum on her leadership after an internal dispute.

(AP Photo/Andres Kudacki)

allow members living on the island to decide the matter in a referendum. Garcia said Wednesday she still considers herself a member of the Ladies, but

Berta is doing. The direction of the movement has gotten lost," Garcia said. "It has become something that's much more about politics than human rights."

by the European Union in 2005, receiving its highest human rights prize, the Sakharov. Laura Pollan, the group's founder and longtime leader, died in 2011. □

Crew was filming when helicopters crashed in Argentina

PAUL BYRNE
N. PISARENKO
Associated Press

VILLA CASTELLI, Argentina (AP) — A former French Olympic skater who was participating in a reality show in Argentina said Wednesday that the crew was filming when their two helicopters collided and crashed, killing all 10 on

board. Philippe Candeloro, a two-time Olympic bronze medal winner, said when the helicopters took off he went into the production van to get some shade because his group of participants had a short break. About 30 seconds later he heard a loud noise. "I did not see the crash. I only heard it — the bang,"

said Candeloro, who spoke in French to reporters near the crash site about 730 miles (1,170 kilometers) northwest of Buenos Aires. Two Argentine pilots and three acclaimed French athletes were among the 10 who died Monday afternoon when the two helicopters crashed during production of the reality

television show "Dropped." The victims included Olympian swimmer Camille Muffat and boxer Alexis Vastine as well as pioneering sailor Florence Arthaud. Candeloro said he initially thought one of the helicopters had a mechanical problem, but soon realized that whatever happened involved both aircraft.

"I saw black smoke going up in two columns and I realized it was not only one of the helicopters but both of them," he said. He said other crew members were still in shock. "I think we slept better last night but always with those terrible images in our heads when we wake up," he said. □



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224. Email: sales@o-eagle-beacharuba.com, and become one of the few who will experience the blissful, unparalleled luxurious resort living concept that awaits O residents. About the developers: The developers of O Condo-

minium are also the developers of Gold Coast Aruba a subsidiary of Cas Bon Development Group (Cas Bon). Cas Bon is a family-owned corporation specializing in residential community development and consists of local investors who have over 16 years of real estate experience in Aruba.

The company has developed more than twelve residential communities for both the local and visitor markets to date, including Villa Park Paradera, Sabana Villas, Villa Park Tanki Lendeert, Seroe Blanco Vil-



Following current trends of modernism and minimalism, a team of highly talented and creative Architects, Interior Designers, and Landscape Artists created an iconic building with lush grounds, exceptional services, and a spectacular collection of luxury residences, in eight distinctive unit designs, taking full advantage of the incomparable oceanfront location and sunset orientation. The happy residents of O Condominium will find an enjoyable mix of spacious Apartment Home living with countless luxury amenities in every room. From

rooms, panoramic views, avant-garde design elements, and luxury finishes for the 2-and 3-bedroom residences, ranging in size from 129 m2 to 275 m2. (1,388 sq ft to 2,960 sq ft)

Creating what will be the first "Boutique" resort-style residence compound on the Island's prestigious Eagle Beach, the developers' vision for O includes amenities and services comparable to 5-star resort hotels, with an inviting modern lobby with reception, lounge areas, an expansive beachfront pool area with infinity edge pool, Jacuzzi, lounge chairs, umbrellas,



las, Bubali Villas, Paramira Villas, Tanki Lendeert Villas, and Paradera Villas among others, with three upscale developments, Surfside Villas, Gold Coast, and the most recent O Condominium to their credit. □

La Cabana marks International Women's Day: A Celebration Dedicated to the Women Who "Make it Happen"!



EAGLE BEACH - International Women's Day themed this year by the slogan "Make it happen," was organized by the Green & Health Committee who took the opportunity to recognize the achievements of women working at La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino.

Committee members spearheaded a contest to elect the resort's Woman Role Model of the Year. All associates were encouraged to nominate their candidate according to

guidelines set by the committee. Nominees had to be prepared to assist, smiling, friendly, professional, as Role Models at work and in the community.

After the due selection process, the committee determined that the Women who "Make it Happen" are: Clara Acevedo and Nilda Girigori, Housekeeping department; Alexandra Werleman and Glenda Brokke-Croes, PBX; Janet Reid and Avilia Ridderstaat, Front Desk; Helen Werleman, Executive Of-

fice; Maureen Kelly, Accounting; Ena Vrolijk, Guest Care; Rosanne Roy-van Rooij, Human Resources and Jessica Franken, Assistant General Manager.

To announce the results and honor nominees, the committee prepared a meaningful recognition program, with committee member Frank Sabayo as the emcee of the gathering, conducting the program with eloquence and class.

All nominees were called forward to receive a jumbo cupcake, a sweet treat, a symbol of perseverance and satisfaction when overcoming barriers and reaching goals. Additionally each nominee received redeemable resort stars as symbol of prosperity, as well as a commemorative certificate.

After sharing the remarks which inspired the voters



to elect the winning Role Model, the result was announced, and the winner of Woman Role Model of the year for 2015 was introduced as Ena Vrolijk, Guest Care Department.

While the emcee read quotes symbolizing motivation and re-enforcing trust, Ena received a potted plant, symbol of care, devotion and dedication; an artful letter box, symbol of ingenuity and creativity as well as a gift representing recognition and attention, courtesy of Citro Spa.

Jessica Franken, Assistant General Manager dedicated a few uplifting thoughts to all of the resort's brilliant women and thanked them for their contributions to

the company, our community and their families.

Women are faced with many challenges, she said, yet they are strong and persevere in all situations. The Green & Health Committee thanked Citro Spa for the lovely gift, and also expressed gratitude to the F&B department for the special touches in creating the associates' meals, and decorating the room. The committee also acknowledged all who "make it happen" at the resort and wished all remarkable female associates and all remarkable female island residents, a wonderful day, quoting Mother Therese: Give of your Hands to Serve and your Heart to Love. □



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Benefitting SABA, Sjabururi, and Ambiente Feliz:

The Marriott Aruba Care Foundation Makes Special Donations!



PALM BEACH • Recently the Marriott Aruba Care Foundation made a special donation to SABA - a non-profit retirement home - and to Sjabururi and Ambiente Feliz - non-profit foundations aimed at guiding people with mental limitations to live

more independently within the community. The donation consisted of a container full of essential commodities such as pillows, bed sheets, soaps, shampoos, conditioners, pillow cases and cushions. The foundations were pleasantly surprised with

the donation and the associates of Aruba Marriott Resort and Stellaris Casino, Marriott Ocean and Surf Club were very glad to have been able to give back to the community through this initiative. About the Marriott Care Foundation: Founded in 1999 by the



associates of the Aruba Marriott, they have been actively contributing to the Aruba community for the past fourteen years. It embodies a living and

breathing sentiment and "Spirit to Serve" within the associates who fund the Foundation through direct personal financial contributions. □



Victorinox Presents Its ARUBA Limited Edition Classic SD Knife

ORANJESTAD • Victorinox launched its very special Aruba Limited Edition Classic SD knife from the Caribbean Collection featuring a vibrant tropical imprint. Victorinox is a knife manufacturer based in the town of Ibach, Switzerland, and is currently the sole supplier of multi-purpose knives to the Swiss army. This Aruba Limited Edition is the perfect companion for everyone featuring seven popular implements, stainless steel blades and Swiss Made precision. Not only does this knife make the perfect souvenir, but it brings back great memories each time its owner pulls out the handy tool. Get yours today to celebrate these national holidays, only available at Diamonds International. Visit Diamonds International downtown in front of the bus terminal now and get yours today! □



Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "from the pier to your plate!"



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



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You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com

Driftwood Restaurant. This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 www.driftwoodaruba.com Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



Seattle Sounders forward Clint Dempsey takes a photo with a fan's phone after the Sounders beat the New England Revolution 3-0 in an MLS soccer match, Sunday, March 8, 2015, in Seattle.

Associated Press

Turns out MLS never finalized 2010- 14 labor deal

RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

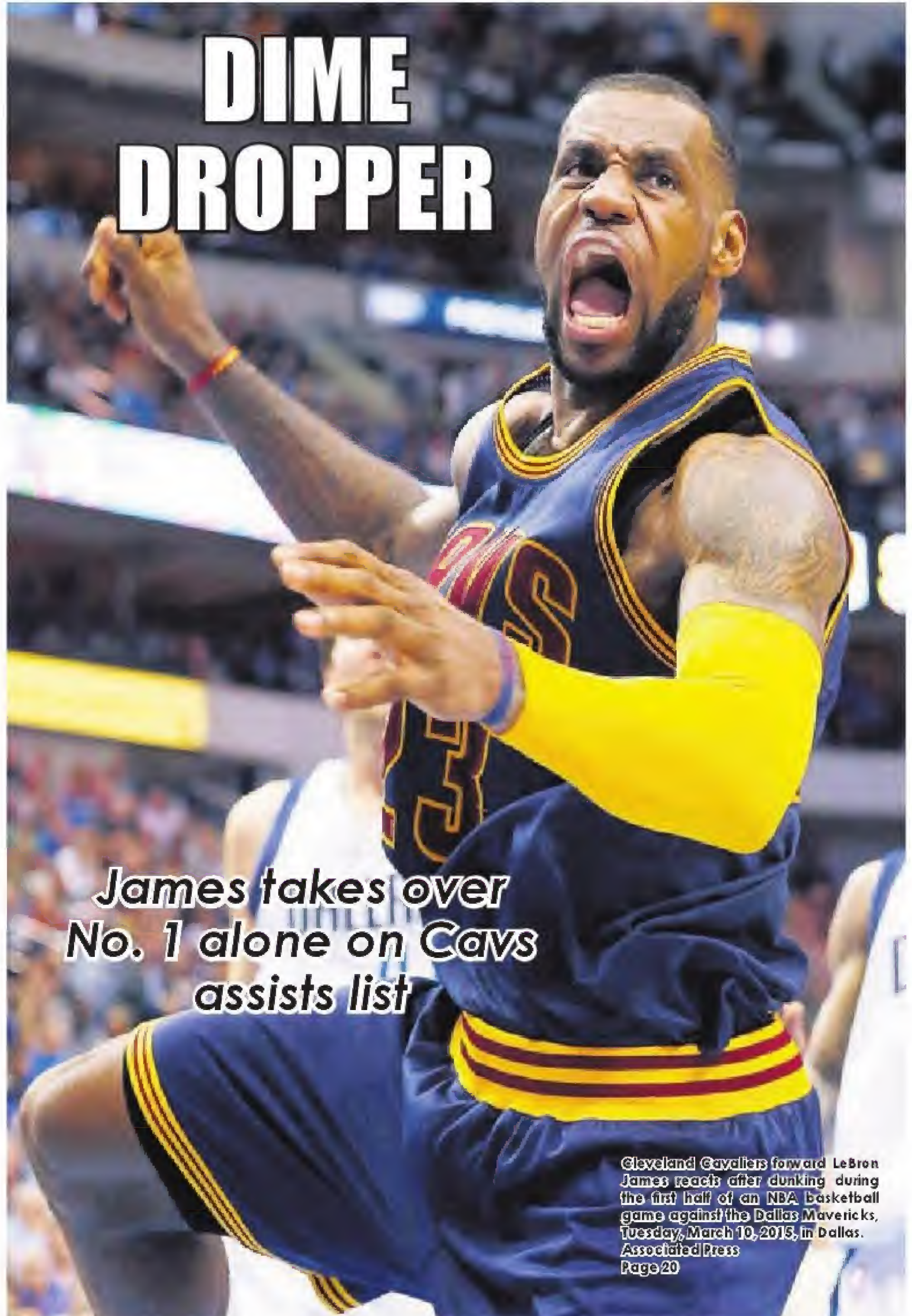
NEW YORK (AP) — Turns out Major League Soccer never had a finalized labor contract for the last five years, a situation players and management hope to rectify following their agreement in principle last week on a new deal through 2019.

The new labor agreement increases minimum salaries but cuts the roster size of each team from 30 to 28. The union says the last few players on each side never saw much time on the field. Players and the league reached a memorandum of understanding five days before the 2010 season opener but never took the time to draft a full collective bargaining agreement. Management and the union instead operated under the memorandum of understanding they signed, which in labor negotiations lists the modifications the sides agree will be made to their previous contract.

Continued on page
page 22

DIME DROPPER

James takes over No. 1 alone on Cavs assists list



Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James reacts after dunking during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Dallas Mavericks, Tuesday, March 10, 2015, in Dallas. Associated Press Page 20

NHL Capsules

Johnson's goal in OT lifts Lightning over Canadiens 1-0

The Associated Press

MONTREAL (AP) — Tyler Johnson scored about a minute into overtime to lift the Tampa Bay Lightning over the Montreal Canadiens 1-0 in a battle between Eastern Conference leaders on Tuesday.

Johnson took his own rebound and saw the puck go in off defenseman Tom Gilbert's skate.

The Lightning (42-20-6) won a fourth straight game and are now one point behind conference-leading Montreal (42-18-7).

The 21,000 fans in Montreal were treated to hockey at a frantic pace, but no goals through three periods between two of the Eastern Conference's fastest teams.

The Lightning had a 35-19 shot advantage, including 10-2 in the third period.

It was the third meeting between the clubs, with the Lightning winning the first two by a combined 11-3. They play twice more later this month.

RANGERS 2, ISLANDERS 1

UNIONDALE, New York (AP) — Rick Nash scored a deflected goal to break a tie 2:50 into the third period as the New York Rangers beat the New York Islanders in their last regular-season visit to Nassau Coliseum.

After dropping the first three matchups to the Islanders — including two at home — the Rangers have won two straight on Long



Minnesota Wild's Sean Bergenheim, left, of Finland, reacts as New Jersey Devils goalie Keith Kinkaid gets hit with the puck in the third period of an NHL hockey game Tuesday, March 10, 2015, in St. Paul, Minn. The Wild won 6-2, with Bergenheim scoring one of the goals. **Associated Press**

Island. The previous meeting was a 6-5 Rangers victory in which they erased a pair of two-goal deficits after falling behind 1-0 just 11 seconds in.

Kevin Hayes scored the tying goal in the second period this time, and Cam Talbot made 29 saves to improve to 11-2-3 since No. 1 goalie Henrik Lundqvist went out with a neck injury. Nash's team-leading 39th goal was a shot from the right point that caromed in off Islanders forward Ryan Strome.

BRUINS 3, SENATORS 1

OTTAWA, Ontario (AP) —

Ryan Spooner scored his second and third goals of the season and Tuukka Rask celebrated his birthday by stopping 39 shots to help lead the surging Boston Bruins the win.

After losing six games straight to open the door for other teams to get back in the playoff race, the Bruins (34-22-10) have won three straight and six of eight. Loui Eriksson added the other Bruins goal. Matt Puempel scored for Ottawa (30-24-11) as Craig Anderson faced 22 shots in his second straight start after missing 17 games.

The loss was Ottawa's first in regulation since Feb. 16 and ended a nine-game points streak where Ottawa went 8-0-1 to get back into the playoff race.

Rask turned 28 on Tuesday.

BLUES 5, JETS 4

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Barret Jackman scored his first goal in 36 games with 1:03 left, launching a shot from center ice to give the Blues the win.

After his team squandered a three-goal, third-period lead, Jackman bailed the Blues out when got control of the puck along the left boards in the neutral zone

off a faceoff.

He appeared to be just dumping the puck into the Jets' end, but his shot was on net and it handcuffed goalie Ondrej Pavelec.

That was the only goal that Pavelec allowed in 20 shots faced. He came on in relief in the second period when the Blues scored four goals on four straight shots against Jets rookie goalie Michael Hutchinson.

KINGS 5, AVALANCHE 2

DENVER (AP) — Brayden McNabb had a goal and two assists and Jonathan Quick stopped 21 shots as the Los Angeles Kings ended the Colorado Avalanche's three-game win streak.

Marian Gaborik, Jeff Carter, Kyle Clifford and Jake Muzzin also scored as the reigning Stanley Cup champions crept closer to playoff contention with 16 games remaining.

Tyson Barrie and Alex Tanguay scored for the Avalanche, who dropped the first contest in a pivotal three-game homestand as their postseason aspirations dwindle.

Rookie goaltender Calvin Pickard filled in after Semyon Varlamov injured his groin over the weekend. Pickard's night didn't last long, with the Kings scoring three early goals and chasing him from the game at 14:15 of the first period. Reto Berra took over the rest of the way. □



Rick Casillo mushes into Manley Hot Springs, Alaska, during the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race on Tuesday, March 10, 2015. **Associated Press**

MARK THIESSEN
Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — A young musher who

Mushers in second day of 1,000-mile Iditarod; 1 disqualified

recently won an all-river-ice sled dog race in Alaska has grabbed an early lead in the 1,000-mile (1,600-kilometer) Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.

Pete Kaiser of Bethel was the first to leave the Manley Hot Springs checkpoint, 161 miles (259 kilometers) into the race.

He departed at 7:58 a.m. Tuesday, followed 40 minutes later by 2004 Iditarod winner Mitch Seavey. Musher Jessie Royer of Darby, Montana, pulled out of

the checkpoint 17 minutes after Seavey.

Veteran musher Brent Sass was disqualified late Tuesday for carrying a two-way communication device.

Rule 35 prohibits cellphones and other two-way communication devices, said race director Mark Nordman. Sass, of Eureka, told the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner that he had an iPod Touch with wireless Internet capability.

Sass won last month's 1,000-mile (1,600-kilometer)

Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race.

A field of 78 mushers began the trek Monday from Fairbanks to the old gold-rush town of Nome.

The race usually kicks off 225 miles (362 kilometers) south in Willow, but a lack of snow led organizers to move the start farther north. The route change adds about 600 miles (965 kilometers) of river ice, but it eliminates a mountain range and treacherous gorge. □

NFL Free Agency

Big trades steal spotlight from free agents

BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Monster deals sending Jimmy Graham to Seattle and Sam Bradford to Philadelphia stole the spotlight from free agent signings.

That is until mid-evening, when Darrelle Revis returned to the New York.

The Jets dug into their past to bring back the All-Pro cornerback, according to his agents. Revis goes from the Jets' archrival Patriots, who he helped win the Super Bowl last month, to his NFL roots.

The deal is for five years and \$70 million, with \$39 million guaranteed.

New Orleans agreed to send its star tight end to the Seahawks for center Max Unger, with draft picks changing hands. The Saints are to get a first-round pick, while Seattle receives a fourth-rounder.

That stunner was followed by Bradford, the injury-prone quarterback who barely has played the past two years (knee), going to Philadelphia for Nick Foles, who also comes off an injury-shortened season (collarbone) and is headed to St. Louis. Bradford was the top



This combo of file photos, Chicago Bears' Brandon Marshall, left, and Denver Broncos' Brandon Marshall. When rumors began swirling Thursday that the Bears' star wide receiver was about to get traded to the Jets, the Broncos' Brandon Marshall started getting plenty of misdirected tweets welcoming him to the Big Apple.

Associated Press

overall draft pick in 2010. Foles is the latest starter to depart Philadelphia. He joins two-time All-Pro running back LeSean McCoy, now in Buffalo, and Pro Bowl wide receiver Jeremy Maclin, headed for Kansas City, in going elsewhere. Philadelphia also added Seahawks starting cornerback Byron Maxwell as a free agent with a six-year deal. And Seattle brought in cornerback Cary Williams, formerly of the Eagles and a 2012 Super Bowl winner with the Ravens.

Baltimore dealt nose tackle Haloti Ngata to Detroit, which is about to lose All-Pro defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh in free agency. Ngata, 31 and a five-time Pro Bowler, is due \$8.5 million next season and has a \$16 million salary cap figure. The Bills confirmed acquiring McCoy for linebacker Kiko Alonso; McCoy also signed a contract extension for \$40 million over five years. The Jets also confirmed a previously agreed upon trade, getting receiver

Brandon Marshall from Chicago for a fifth-round draft pick. The Jets released WR-KR Percy Harvin, whom they acquired last season from Seattle.

Carolina released DeAngelo Williams, its career rushing leader.

Two retirements also drew attention away from the chase for free agents. Five-time All-Pro linebacker Patrick Willis, the heart of San Francisco's defense for eight seasons, called it quits. The 2007 Defensive Rookie of the Year is leaving because of recurrent toe and feet injuries.

"In my head, I'm already a Hall of Famer," Willis said. "I am leaving this with closure, saying that I am happy today, more happy today than I was the day I was drafted. That says something to me."

Tennessee quarterback Jake Locker, his four-year pro career ravaged by injuries, also retired, saying he has no "burning desire" to keep playing.

The 49ers lost another mainstay when running back Frank Gore, their career rushing leader, joined the Colts.

Linebacker A.J. Hawk, who

grew up in Ohio and attended Ohio State, agreed to terms with Cincinnati on a two-year deal. Hawk spent his first nine seasons in Green Bay.

Jacksonville, with lots of salary cap room, grabbed tight end Julius Thomas away from Denver among a slew of moves. The Jaguars agreed to deals with defensive end Jared Odrick, right tackle Jermei Parnell, cornerback Davon House, linebacker Dan Skuta and safety Sergio Brown. Thomas agreed on a five-year deal worth \$46 million, with \$24 million guaranteed. Arizona got probably the best run blocker in this year's group, guard Mike Iupati, who agreed on a five-year, \$40 million contract with \$22.5 million guaranteed. The 6-foot-5, 331-pound lineman played five seasons with San Francisco, is a three-time Pro Bowl player and made the All-Pro team in 2012.

Arizona also re-signed linebacker LaMarr Woodley. The Falcons fortified the middle of new coach Dan Quinn's defense by signing free-agent linebackers Brooks Reed and Justin Durant. □

DeCaster leads Europe to 6-2 win over Japan in exhibition

TOKYO (AP) — Yurendell DeCaster hit a three-run homer in the third inning Wednesday to lead Team Europe to a 6-2 win over Japan in the finale of a two-game exhibition series.

The visitors scored two runs in the second inning and DeCaster, a native of Curacao, connected off Japan starter Takahiro Matsuba to give Europe a 5-0 lead.

"It's very tough to come back from 5-0," Japan manager Hiroki Kokubo said. "Give them credit.

They've come a long way and play the game at a high level."

The series was part of the World Baseball Softball Confederation's efforts to have baseball make a return at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Baseball and softball were dropped after the 2008 Beijing Games but could make a return in 2020 under reforms made by the International Olympic Committee.

The European team, which lost 4-3 in the first game, was made up of



Team Europe's Yurendell De Caster of the Netherlands, hits a three run homer against Team Japan in the third inning of their friendly baseball game at Tokyo Dome in Tokyo Wednesday, March 11, 2015.

Associated Press

players from six countries, mostly the Netherlands and Italy.

Europe starter Diegomar Markwell was credited

with the win after holding Japan to three hits over three scoreless innings.

There was a moment of silence before the game

at Tokyo Dome to honor the victims of the March 11, 2011, tsunami that claimed the lives of 15,891 people. □

NBA Capsules

No headband, no problem: James helps Cavs rout Mavs

The Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — DALLAS (AP) — Even without his trademark headband, LeBron James had 27 points and took over sole possession of the Cavaliers' career assists record as Cleveland beat the Dallas Mavericks 127-94 on Tuesday night.

James was one of four players with more than 20 points for the Central Division-leading Cavaliers, who have won 12 of their last 13 games against Western Conference opponents and broke a 14-game losing streak in Texas. Kyrie Irving scored 22 points, while Kevin Love had 21 points and 14 rebounds. J.R. Smith also scored 21 points and Timofey Mozgov, the other starter, had 17.

Chandler Parsons led Dallas with 18 points, while Monta Ellis had 17 and Amare Stoudemire 15. Dirk Nowitzki scored 13 points on only 3-of-10 shooting.

SPURS 117, RAPTORS 107

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Kawhi Leonard had 24 points, 11 rebounds and matched a career high with five steals, as San Antonio withstood a second-half letdown to beat Toronto for its sixth straight victory.

Tony Parker added 23



Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James (23) shoots as Dallas Mavericks guard Devin Harris (20) defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, March 10, 2015, in Dallas. Cleveland won 127-94.

Associated Press

points and nine assists, and Danny Green was 5 for 6 on 3-pointers in scoring 19

points for San Antonio. Toronto lost its fourth straight despite 32 points

from Kyle Lowry and 21 for DeMar DeRozan. Amir Johnson had 16 points and 14 rebounds.

Tim Duncan made the game's first basket on a follow of his own blocked shot 19 seconds in, after failing to make a field goal for the first time in his career in San Antonio's previous game. He finished with 12 points and 13 rebounds in 36 minutes before leaving with about a minute remaining, clutching his elbow after teammate Tiago Splitter fell into him under the basket.

PACERS 118, MAGIC 86

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Reserve Rodney Stuckey had 34 points, six rebounds and seven assists, as Indiana beat Orlando for its sixth straight victory.

Damjan Rudez scored 17 points, and Luis Scola added 15 points and 10 rebounds for the surging Pacers (29-34), who moved into sole possession of seventh place in the Eastern Conference.

Tobias Harris had 22 points and six rebounds, and Elfrid Payton finished with 14 points for the Magic, who have lost five of seven games. Stuckey made two of his career-best six 3-pointers in an 18-0 run in the first half. Indiana used a

9-3 run in the fourth quarter to pull away, with Solomon Hill's two-handed dunk to give the Pacers a 93-73 lead with 9:52 remaining.

PELICANS 111, NETS 91

NEW YORK (AP) — Alexis Ajinca and Quincy Pondexter each scored 17 points as New Orleans moved within percentage points of eighth place in the Western Conference by beating Brooklyn.

Omer Asik had 12 points and 15 rebounds for the Pelicans in their third straight victory. Anthony Davis scored 15 points, a night after tying his career high with 43 in a win at Milwaukee.

Brook Lopez had 15 points and nine rebounds for the Nets, who broke to an early double-digit lead before losing their fourth straight.

Ajinca had 11 points during a four-minute stretch of the second quarter as the Pelicans took a 55-46 lead into halftime. They are 2 percentage points behind Oklahoma City for the West's final playoff spot.

JAZZ 87, KNICKS 82

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Derrick Favors had 29 points and 12 rebounds, as Utah beat New York to equal a season high with its third straight victory. □

Grigor 'Baby Fed' Dimitrov beats Federer in exhibition at MSG



Roger Federer, center, of Switzerland, listens to questions from reporters at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament, Wednesday, March 11, 2015, in Indian Wells, Calif.

Associated Press

RACHEL COHEN
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Roger Federer was reminiscing about watching New York

Knicks games at Madison Square Garden on TV in the early 1990s, and Grigor Dimitrov couldn't help but interject: "I was born

around the '90s."

It was no coincidence the 17-time Grand Slam champion was matched against the player nearly a decade younger in Tuesday night's exhibition at the Garden. Their games are so similar that Dimitrov got tagged with the nickname "Baby Fed."

And on Tuesday, the 23-year-old Bulgarian — for the record, he was born in 1991 — kept up with Federer's shot-making quite nicely. Dimitrov won 6-2, 1-6, 7-5, rallying from a break down in the final set. He's 0-3 in official matches against Federer and didn't want to make a big deal about beating him this time.

"I have so much respect for him," said the 11th-ranked

Dimitrov, who made his first Grand Slam semifinal at last summer's Wimbledon.

So the Swiss great did it for him.

"I think he played very well. He did really well to turn the match around, honestly," Federer said. "So credit to him. It's a lot of pressure — first time at the Garden."

Earlier, Gabriela Sabatini, 44, beat Monica Seles, 41, in a pro set B-5. Both have rarely played since retiring, but they decided it was worth training to commemorate the 25th anniversary of their classic five-set 1990 WTA Finals match at the Garden, won by Seles. In the tradition of exhibitions, Dimitrov brought a youngster from the crowd onto the court to play one point in the third

set, and the kid successfully lobbed Federer. The two pros made their share of creative shots, too.

Proving he can still pull off his signature moves better than his up-and-coming opponent can, Federer got back a between-the-legs shot from Dimitrov that appeared headed for a winner with a between-the-legs return of his own in the second set. Dimitrov then missed the volley. Federer had Dimitrov scrambling all over the court early in the final set, leaving Dimitrov nearly doing a split as he failed to run down a shot. A game later, after he chased down a short ball to hit a winner at a near-impossible angle, Federer held his hand to his ear to egg on the crowd. □

NASCAR reinstates Kurt Busch; grants him waiver for Chase

JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP) —

NASCAR lifted its suspension of Kurt Busch on Wednesday and ruled the former champion can compete in the title series if he qualifies.

Busch missed the first three races of the season when NASCAR suspended him for an alleged domestic assault on his ex-girlfriend. He was suspended for two days before the season-opening Daytona 500, and lost two rounds of appeals the day before the race.

The Delaware attorney general last week declined to charge Busch for the September incident with Patricia Driscoll.

NASCAR said Busch

complied with all requirements of the program, but is under indefinite probation.

"We have made it very clear to Kurt Busch our expectations for him moving forward, which includes participation in a treatment program and full compliance with all judicial requirements as a result of his off-track behavior," NASCAR executive vice president Steve O'Donnell said. O'Donnell said when it became clear Busch would not be charged, it "removed a significant impediment" to his reinstatement.

"The health care expert who conducted his evaluation recommended his immediate return,"

O'Donnell said.

Busch will return to his Stewart-Haas Racing team this weekend at Phoenix.

He still must comply with guidelines set by Family Court Commissioner David Jones, who granted the no-contact order for Driscoll that led to his Feb. 20 suspension. Jones wrote in his opinion that he believed there's a real possibility Busch will lash out again, and has a propensity to lose control in response to disappointing or frustrating situations involving racing. Jones ordered Busch to be evaluated to see if there is a "treatable mental health condition."

Busch is appealing Jones' ruling, and NASCAR will allow that to play out. □

Malori wins amended opening stage of Tirreno-Adriatico



Italy's Adriano Malori celebrates on the podium after winning the opening stage of the Tirreno-Adriatico cycling race in Lido di Camaiore, Italy, Wednesday, March 11, 2015.

Associated Press

LIDO DI CAMAIORE, Italy (AP) — Adriano Malori won the amended opening stage of the Tirreno-Adriatico on Wednesday, edging out favorite Fabian Cancellara in an individual time trial.

The Italian completed the 5.4-kilometer (3.4-mile) route in Lido di Camaiore in 6 minutes, 4 seconds, to beat Cancellara by one second.

Greg Van Avermaet was third, just ahead of Maciej Bodnar and Matthias Brandle, who all finished

two seconds behind Malori. "It's an amazing day, I'll get to wear the jersey too, so it's special," Malori said. "I didn't think I'd win because on a course like this, 'Cance' is the best rider in the world. I'm very happy and there's the time trial in San Benedetto del Tronto too, which is straighter and should suit me." High winds over the weekend had left freers and debris along the roads between Camaiore and Forte dei Marmi, forcing the 22-kilometer (13.7-mile) team time trial

to be replaced by a shorter individual race. This year's race was set to be the first time that four riders with 10 Grand Tour wins between them have competed together in a World Tour stage race, but 2013 Tour de France champion Chris Froome withdrew on Monday because of a chest infection. However, defending Tirreno champion Alberto Contador, two-time winner Vincenzo Nibali and last year's runner-up Nairo Quintana are in the race. □



In this Oct. 9, 2014, file photo, Kurt Busch looks from the garage after practice for the NASCAR Bank of America Sprint Cup series auto race at Charlotte Motor Speedway in Concord, N.C.

Associated Press



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SAT 2:15 | 4:00 | 6:25 | 8:55 | 7:40 | 11:25
SUN & HOL 2:15 | 4:00 | 6:25 | 7:40 | 8:55

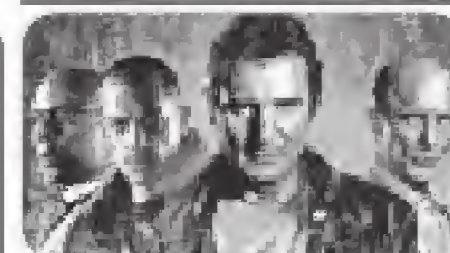
SPANISH

MON-FRI 5:10

SAT 2:40 | 5:10 | 10:10

SUN & HOL 2:40 | 5:10 | 10:10

PG



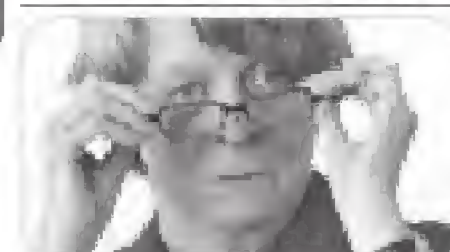
LIAM NEESON | ED HARRIS

RUN ALL NIGHT

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

MON-THURS 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:25
FRI 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:25 | 11:50
SAT 2:10 | 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:25 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 2:10 | 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:25

R



MAGGIE SMITH | RICHARD GERE

THE SECOND BEST EXOTIC
MARIGOLD HOTEL

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

MON-THURS 3:55 | 6:30 | 9:05
FRI-SAT 3:55 | 6:30 | 9:05 | 11:40
SUN & HOL 3:55 | 6:30 | 9:05

PG



ADAM SANDLER | DAN STEVENS

THE COBBLER

PG-13

MON-THURS 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35
FRI 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35 | 11:50
SAT 2:50 | 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 2:50 | 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35

SHARLTO COPLEY | DEV PATEL

CHAPPIE

MON-THURS 6:45 | 9:20
FRI 6:45 | 9:20 | 11:55
SAT 6:45 | 9:20 | 11:55
SUN & HOL 6:45 | 9:20

R

ANTONIO BANDERAS | TOM KENNY

THE SPONGEBOB MOVIE
SPONGE WATER

MON-FRI 4:40
SAT 2:35 | 4:40
SUN & HOL 2:35 | 4:40

PG

WILL SMITH | MARGOT ROBBIE

focus

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

MON-THURS 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30
FRI 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30 | 11:50
SAT 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30

R

VINCE VAUGHN | DAVE FRANCO

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MON-THURS 5:35 | 7:35 | 9:35
FRI 5:35 | 7:35 | 9:35 | 11:35
SAT 5:35 | 7:35 | 9:35 | 11:35
SUN & HOL 5:35 | 7:35 | 9:35

R

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Mayweather, Pacquiao begin countdown to their big fight

TIM DAHLBERG

AP Boxing Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Manny Pacquiao was out walking the red carpet by the time Floyd Mayweather Jr. arrived, fashionably late for their first appearance together to promote a fight that really needs no promoting.

But it didn't take long Wednesday for Mayweather to put the fight into perspective in a way that only a fighter nicknamed "Money" can.

"You get to this level where you're making nine figures in 36 minutes," Mayweather said, "and you have to be a winner."

Mayweather had the math right, though he declined to say just how much he will make in the May 2 fight that has stirred excitement far beyond the boxing community. He will get 60 percent of the purse in what is expected to be boxing's richest fight ever, a haul that could exceed \$120 million for Mayweather alone.

Pacquiao won't do badly, either, in a fight that was five years in the making and will break records in another way — it will cost fans more than any other fight in history to watch both at the MGM Grand arena or in the comfort of



Boxers Floyd Mayweather Jr., left, and Manny Pacquiao, of the Philippines, pose for photos after a news conference, Wednesday, March 11, 2015, in Los Angeles. The two are scheduled to fight in Las Vegas on May 2.

their living rooms.

At the only press conference the fighters will do prior to the week of the fight, promoters announced that tickets would range from \$1,500 in the upper reaches of the MGM Garden to \$7,500 at ringside. The pay-per-view price wasn't announced, but is expected to be in the \$90-100 range. They may have to reach deep into their pockets to afford it, but there's little doubt that boxing fans will buy it. They want to see

what Mayweather and Pacquiao say they are eager to show — the two biggest draws in boxing settling things between them once and for all in the ring. "We don't want to leave a question mark in the minds of fans of boxing," said Pacquiao, from the Philippines. "It's also very important this fight is for the honor of my country."

If the interest in the press conference at a downtown theater was any indication, the fight is already on

its way to record business. More than 700 credentials were issued for the event, and both fighters walked a red carpet lined by photographers and video cameras that was worthy of the Academy Awards.

Mayweather came late, though he could walk over from his condo next door. The pay-per-view king was businesslike and relatively subdued, with nothing bad to say about Pacquiao or anyone in his camp.

Associated Press

"It's always good to have the best fight the best," Mayweather said. "That's what's so intriguing about this match up."

Mayweather said he was adamant about making the fight, pestering manager Al Haymon to get it done. But the biggest bout in recent history still may not have happened if not for a chance meeting between Mayweather and Pacquiao at a Miami Heat basketball game in January — a meeting that took place only because a big storm on the East Coast delayed Pacquiao's flight. "I didn't say a lot of words because I didn't want to say a mistake," Pacquiao said. "He said there's an A-side and a B-side and the purse would be 40-60. That's enough to put me in the B-side."

Mayweather said the fight reminded him of when he was young and Marvin Hagler and Sugar Ray Leonard fought in a huge middleweight title match in 1987. Mayweather said he wondered then how there could ever be a fight as big as that one.

Now he's in a fight that will be bigger, if only because technology has advanced far enough to sell it to almost every home in the country. □

MLS

Continued from page 17

"There were dozens of little things in the conversion that would have been required, and neither side ever took the time to get the other to sit down and actually do it. It was that simple. It wasn't all that important," L. Robert Batterman, the league's lead labor lawyer at Proskauer, told The Associated Press on Wednesday. "This time, to avoid the risk of being in a situation with a CBA from 10 years ago and then two MOUs, we're going straight to the CBA."

The union website still has a link to the 2004-10 agreement, the first in the league's history.

"It's frustrating for all

concerned," union head Bob Foose said. As for what the sides agreed to in 2010, he added: "We know. Without the document, everyone else doesn't."

A similar circumstance occurred in Major League Baseball from 1985-89, when teams and players operated under the 1980 labor contract as modified by their 1981 agreement on free-agent compensation and their 1985 MOU. In baseball, the sides couldn't agree on some aspects of what was in the MOU.

Last week's MLS deal, reached two days before the league opener, creates free agency for the first time. Players 28 and older can become free agents if they have eight seasons of MLS service and their contracts have expired.



Seattle Sounders players celebrate after they beat the New England Revolution 3-0 in an MLS soccer match, Sunday, March 8, 2015, in Seattle.

Associated Press

Free agents earning under \$100,000 this year are capped at 125 percent for 2016, with the limit lowering to 120 percent for those making \$100,000-\$200,000

this year and 115 percent for those earning more than \$200,000.

Foose estimated 12.5 percent of the player pool will meet the free-agency

requirements this year and said the provision will have a wider reach because it may spark new contracts that prevent players from going free.

"The impact it has on players' renegotiations with their current teams is changed dramatically," Foose said.

"To the extent that the player pool has a perception of how an individual team treats players, there could be a real cost to that on the negative and a real benefit to that on the positive."

Foose said the union estimated the average salary for the first 20 roster spots on each team, not including high-priced designated players, will rise from \$126,000 last year to \$186,000 by 2019. □

Review: Google laptop impresses, but don't try it offline

ANICK JESDANUN

AP Technology Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) —

There's a lot to love about Google's new high-end Chromebook Pixel laptop: a vivid, high-resolution touch screen, powerful speakers and next-generation USB ports meant to standardize power chargers. All for \$300 cheaper than the original model. But the Pixel's limitations became clear during a cross-country flight. Machines running Google's Chrome operating system are meant primarily for online use. Although the Pixel promises offline access to files stored on Google's online Drive service, it was hit or miss with files that weren't in Google's own formats. Fortunately, I had my Mac laptop to turn to. The Pixel goes on sale Wednesday for \$999, while \$1,299 gets you a version with more storage and a faster processor.

CHROMEBOOK BASICS

On machines running Chrome just about everything works through the Web browser. Many apps, in fact, are simply bookmarks to a service's regular website.

Google figures you'll store most of your files in the



This Tuesday, March 10, 2015 photo shows the Google Chromebook Pixel laptop, in San Jose, Calif.

cloud, so Chromebooks have limited storage. The basic Pixel has just 32 gigabytes, compared with the minimum 128 gigabytes on a MacBook Air. The pricier Pixel has 64 gigabytes.

USING IT WITHOUT INTERNET ACCESS

Some apps do have limited offline capabilities, and they have improved since I tested the original Pixel in 2013. Some of these functions are now automatically enabled, and the Pixel stores your

most recently opened files automatically for offline use.

But that doesn't apply to files you merely copied to Google Drive, as I learned the hard way. All Google-format files are stored automatically, but what I needed were Word and PDF documents. Next time, I'll need to open or download those files individually ahead of time. I couldn't find a way to enable entire folders at once.

AS AN ONLINE DEVICE

Associated Press Chromebooks are typically budget devices costing a few hundred dollars. The Pixel is the exception, with premium performance and a premium price tag.

Still, the Pixel offers a 13-inch touch screen and sharp display at 239 pixels per inch for less than \$1,000. Windows laptops with that performance typically cost a few hundred dollars more. Apple doesn't make touch-screen laptops at all. (That said, comparable Windows and Mac laptops have more storage for the money. And many are

lighter than the Pixel's 3.3 pounds.)

The slower model I tested was speedy — more than adequate for Web surfing, text documents and even video. Sound came through nice and clear. Google promises up to 12 hours of use on a single battery charge. With the battery nearly drained, I got a 50 percent charge in about a half-hour — enough for a day of meetings Tuesday in Silicon Valley. □

Apple reopens iTunes, App stores after lengthy outage

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Apple has restored service to its widely used iTunes and app stores after a rare breakdown Wednesday. The outage vexed the iPhone and iPad maker for more than five hours, disrupting some of the world's most widely used and profitable services and frustrating millions of music lovers and mobile device owners around the world. Access came back in the late afternoon, Eastern time, according to status updates posted by Apple Inc. While they were locked out, exasperated Apple users vented in social media and online forums. Apple apologized for the inconvenience, blaming the problem on an internal



In this Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2013, file photo, the Apple logo is illuminated in the entrance to the Fifth Avenue Apple store, in New York.

error that bogged down its computer servers. About 800 million accounts with credit cards linked to them have been set up on Apple's iTunes store since it opened in 2003 to sell digital music for the

company's iPods. More than 75 billion apps have been downloaded from the store that Apple opened in 2008 for the iPhone and, later, the iPad. Many of those apps charge a fee, or generate

revenue from purchases of other services while people are using the program.

Apple's online book store and the app store for its Mac computers weren't working either.

Last year, Apple's revenue from its iTunes, mobile app store, iBook, Mac app stores and other services totaled \$18.5 billion, or an average of \$50 million per day. That's still a small fraction of Apple's total revenue of \$200 billion during that period.

The outages also cut into the income of mobile app developers who keep most of the revenue from the programs sold in the app store. Last year alone, Apple distributed \$10 billion to mobile app developers, an average of about \$27 million per day. □

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3 BEDRM OV \$27k
Plat. Plus Holiday 51 OV \$46k
Plat. Plus NY 52 OV \$49k

Marriott Aruba Ocean club

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2B Ocean front \$14900
1B Ocean front \$10900

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Stocks slip at close, stabilizing a day after sell-off

B. CONDON

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stock indexes closed slightly lower Wednesday, stabilizing a day after their biggest sell-off in two months.

With no obvious catalyst pushing them either way, indexes spent most of the day wavering between slight gains and losses. Investors are waiting for clues from a Federal Reserve meeting next Wednesday as to when it may start increasing interest rates. The prospect of higher rates and a surge in the dollar have been weighing on markets since indexes hit record highs last week.

Stocks rose at the opening of trading and, until about an hour before the close, were holding onto their gains. The losses at the end were tiny, and energy and financial companies managed to rally.

"Investors are reassessing whether yesterday's sell-off made sense," said David Lefkowitz, senior stock strategist at UBS. "We still like stocks." The Dow Jones industrial average lost 27.55 points, or 0.2 percent, to close at 17,635.39. The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 3.92 points, or 0.2 percent, to 2,040.24. Both indexes are down now about 1 percent in 2015. The Nasdaq composite fell 9.85 points, or 0.2 percent, to 4,849.94. The Nasdaq is up 2.4 percent this year.

The odds of the Fed raising rates appeared to rise

on Friday after the U.S. government reported a burst in hiring last month. A rate increase would be the first in nine years. Low rates and other monetary stimulus have helped the S&P 500 to triple in price since the bull market

after growing 7.4 percent last year, the slowest rate in nearly a quarter-century.

"You have three out of four major drivers of economic growth still struggling," said Bill Strazzullo, chief market strategist at Bell Curve Trading. "Can the U.S. go it

report showing that, in the six months after initial Fed rate hikes going back to 1954, the S&P 500 has rallied an average 7.6 percent.

David Lebovitz, Global Market Strategist for J.P. Morgan Asset Management, also thinks



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Wednesday, March 11, 2015. U.S. stock indexes closed slightly lower but largely stabilized a day after a big sell-off prompted by worries about higher U.S. interest rates.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

began six years ago.

A U.S. interest rate rise would come as Japan and Europe are struggling to grow and as China's expansion slows. On Wednesday, China's official Xinhua news agency reported that output in the world's second-biggest economy rose 6.8 percent in the first two months of the year, less than expected. China is expected to slow further

alone, especially with rates heading higher?"

Strazzullo said he wouldn't be surprised if the S&P 500 fell 10 percent in the coming months. UBS's Lefkowitz is more optimistic. He said he doesn't think higher interest rates will hurt the U.S. economy because it has been steadily strengthening. After Tuesday's stock market tumble, he published a

interest rate fears are overblown. "I think a couple of months after the Fed hikes, the market will be higher," he said. As the Fed is poised to raise rates, the European Central Bank is trying to lower them. The divergent policies are hammering the euro and sending the dollar higher. On Wednesday, the euro fell to \$1.0550, its lowest level since April 2003. □

PetSmart goes private as \$8.7B sale closes

NEW YORK (AP) — PetSmart said Wednesday that it has been taken private, as a group of investors led by the buyout firm BC Partners completed their \$8.7 billion acquisition of the pet store retailer. PetSmart President and CEO David Lenhart and Chairman Gregory Josefowicz are stepping down as part of the deal. Michael Massey is being named president and CEO, and Raymond Svider is the new non-executive chairman. Massey is the

former CEO of Collective Brands Inc., which owns Payless ShoeSource, and Svider is managing partner at BC Partners. Lenhart became CEO of PetSmart in June 2013, the same time Josefowicz became chairman. Lenhart became president of the company in April 2014.

In early July the activist hedge fund manager Jana Capital disclosed that it had taken a stake in PetSmart and had become the Phoenix-based company's

largest shareholder. Jana Partners said it wanted to talk to PetSmart's board about a possible sale of the company and other changes that it said would improve company performance. Another major shareholder, Longview

Asset Management, also pushed for the sale. PetSmart said at the time that it would consider putting itself up for sale and would cut costs. On Dec. 14, the company said it would

be taken private in a deal that valued the company at \$83 per share. That was a 39 percent premium to its closing price on July 2. PetSmart Inc. shareholders approved the sale on Friday. The company operates about 1,387 stores in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. The company's shares rose 4 cents to \$82.99 in afternoon trading. The stock will be delisted after the close of trading Wednesday. □

Amazon opens store for small business items

MAE ANDERSON

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — It may be the biggest online marketplace in the U.S., but a new store on Amazon will support the little guy.

The e-commerce powerhouse is opening a store that will offer exclusive electronics, toys and other products created by inventors and small businesses, including products featured on the ABC reality show "Shark Tank." Dubbed Amazon Exclusives, the online store promotes unique products created by small businesses such as a range of Jackery mini phone chargers, \$70 Hot Chocolate Design's Chocomatics Mariquita shoes and \$75 Zackees LED turn-signal gloves that alert cars when a cyclist makes a hand signal to turn. Some of the products like the gloves and phone chargers were funded by Kickstarter campaigns. Others like a \$700 inflatable paddle board were featured on "Shark Tank." — the ABC show that pits inventors with new products seeking funding against each other. Amazon said it also focused on products that won innovation awards from industry associations. All products in the Amazon store will be available only on Amazon or at the product creators' own website or physical stores.

The items are eligible for free two-day shipping for members of Amazon's \$99 annual Prime loyalty program. The new store is the latest push by Amazon to expand into different areas and reach new customers. The company's strategy has long been to spend a big chunk of the money it makes to grow and expand into new areas like cloud computing, streaming video, hardware and adding services for its Prime loyalty members. Last week the company opened a store on Chinese e-commerce company Alibaba's Tmall retail platform to reach more Chinese customers. □

US catalog retailer L.L. Bean to triple stores by 2020

DAVID SHARP

Associated Press

FREEPORT, Maine (AP) — L.L. Bean, known for selling its trademark boots via catalog for more than a century, plans to make a bigger push into brick-and-mortar retail by more than tripling the number of locations over the next five years, officials said Wednesday.

The Maine-based company, which is coming off five years of increasing revenue, will open four

stores this year before accelerating growth with a goal of "at least 100" by 2020, President and CEO Chris McCormick told workers in a memo Wednesday.

The retail push will include L.L. Bean's first West Coast presence with the opening of stores in the Pacific Northwest. Bean currently has 26 full-price retail stores — along with a handful of outlets — that stretch from the Northeast to Minnesota and Colorado. The retail

strategy makes sense in an era where shoppers have come to expect the convenience of making purchases in stores, on phones and on computers, said retail analyst Walter Loeb. Some shoppers make purchases online and have them shipped to stores, while others go to stores to see products before ordering online, he said.

The board of the family-owned company, which met Wednesday in Freeport, announced a bonus of 5

percent for its 5,300 year-round employees. That amounts to about \$1,500 to \$2,000 for the typical full-time hourly worker, the company said.

The company created when Leon Leonwood Bean sold his original "Maine hunting shoe" in 1912 has been on a tear, and sales of the rubber-bottomed, leather-topped boot have been leading the way.

Demand for the boot has surged, with production

of 450,000 pairs over the past year. This spring, the company is installing a second injection-molding machine to boost capacity and is hiring dozens more workers to bring the shoe-making workforce to 500.

Sales grew 3 percent to \$1.6 billion in the last fiscal year. The company is midway through a \$150 million capital plan to upgrade its systems, and an additional \$100 million will be spent this year on growth initiatives, McCormick said. □

Fed approves dividend, buyback plans for US banks

MARCY GORDON

AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve approved plans by major U.S. banks to raise dividends and buy back shares, but gave only conditional approval for Bank of America, citing weaknesses in the bank's planning processes.

The Fed also rejected plans by the U.S. divisions of two European banks, saying their planning for financial risks is inadequate. Those divisions belong to Germany's Deutsche Bank and Spain's Santander.

The Fed approvals announced Wednesday followed part of its "stress tests" — an annual check-up of the nation's biggest financial institutions. This year, 31 banks were tested to determine if they have large enough capital buffers to keep lending through another financial

crisis and severe economic downturn. The remaining 28 banks can raise dividends or buy back shares.

They included JPMorgan, Citigroup, and Wells Fargo & Co., which with Bank of America are the four biggest U.S. banks by assets. Shortly after the Fed announced its results Wednesday, a handful of banks began increasing their dividends, including JPMorgan Chase and Wells Fargo. Bank of America announced plans to buy back \$4 billion in stock after the conditional approval from the Fed.

Bank of America, the second-largest U.S. bank, has until Sept. 30 to resubmit its capital plan. If the new plan for its financial management processes isn't acceptable to the Fed, the regulators said they may restrict dividend increases or share

buybacks. In stress tests in 2013, JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Goldman Sachs were required by the Fed to resubmit their capital

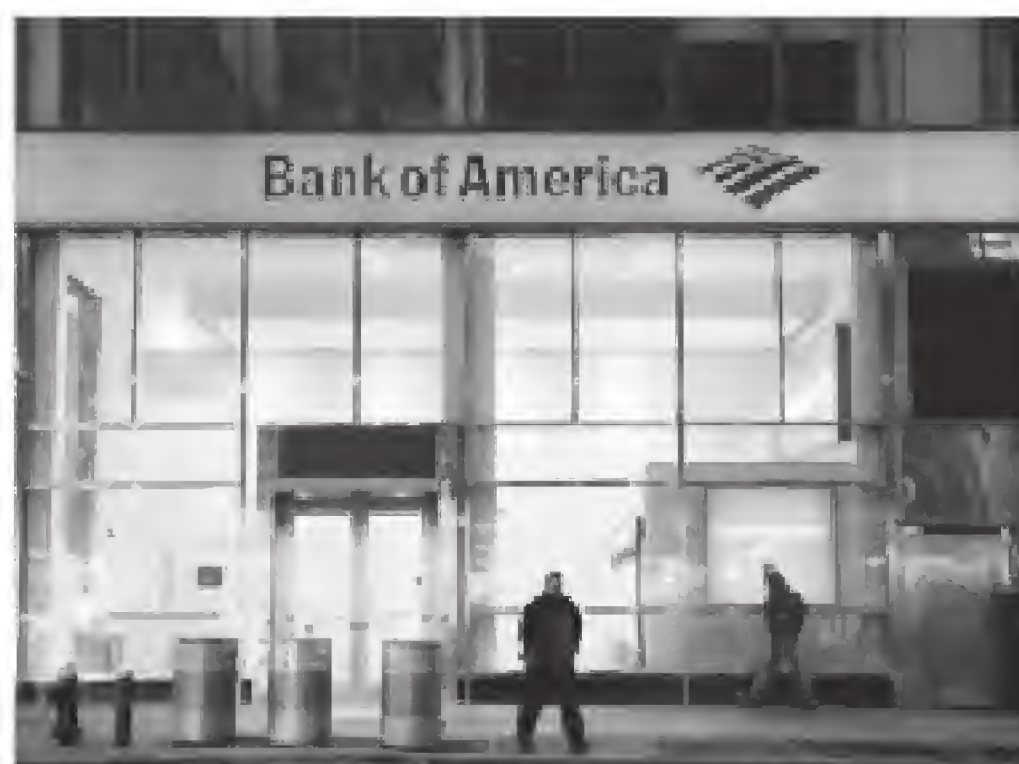
plans. This year, Wall Street powerhouses JPMorgan, Goldman and Morgan Stanley revised their capital plans to reduce their dividend payouts or share repurchases late last week

after the initial results of the stress tests. The notable

"pass" among the 31 banks was Citigroup. The bank did not pass last year and Citi CEO Michael Corbat was under tremendous shareholder pressure to make sure Citi got through.

Industry analysts had said previously that if Citi did not pass this time, Corbat could have lost his job.

"Citi doing as well as it did is a big positive sign for the industry as a whole," said Nancy Bush, an industry analyst with NAB Research. The dividends and share buybacks plans that the Fed considered are important to ordinary investors, and to banks. The banks know that their investors suffered big losses in the financial crisis, and they are eager to reward them. Some shareholders, especially retirees, rely on dividends for a portion of their income. □



People walk past a branch of Bank of America, in New York. The Federal Reserve on Wednesday, March 11, 2015 announced it is ordering Bank of America to revise its plans for increasing dividends or buying back stock, saying there are gaps in its risk planning.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

plans. This year, Wall Street powerhouses JPMorgan,

after the initial results of the stress tests. The notable

Endo tops Valeant's offer for fellow drugmaker Salix

LINDA A. JOHNSON

AP Business Writer

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — Specialty drugmaker Endo International PLC is trying to lure Salix Pharmaceuticals Ltd. with an offer Endo said is worth 11 percent more than the \$10 billion Salix has agreed to accept from serial acquirer Valeant Pharmaceuticals International Inc. Endo's offer Wednesday is the latest in a burst of merger and acquisition activity in the biopharmaceutical industry

that began last year. Endo values its cash and stock offer at \$175 per Salix share, based on Tuesday's closing price, with the offer including \$45 in cash and the rest in Endo common stock. Valeant, which had offered \$158 per share last month, said in a statement that it is "firmly committed to our all-cash agreed transaction, which delivers immediate and certain value to Salix shareholders." Endo, based in Dublin, Ireland, said Wednesday

that it's submitted its proposal to the Salix board of directors. According to Endo, its "superior proposal" worth roughly \$11.17 billion would bring shareholders of Salix a "substantial premium and immediate cash value, as well as the opportunity to participate in the significant upside potential of a global leader in specialty pharmaceuticals."

Endo said the deal could close in the second quarter this year. Salix said in a statement that its board will

review Endo's proposal and "pursue the course of action that it believes is in the best interests of the company's stockholders."

If Endo is the winner, it would have to pay Valeant a breakup fee of \$356.4 million that's required under the Valeant-Salix deal announced on Feb. 22. Salix, based in Raleigh, North Carolina, specializes in medicines for gastrointestinal disorders, including Pepcid and Zegerid for ulcers and

gastroesophageal reflux, and Relistor for constipation caused by opioid drugs. It's developing two more drugs for opioid-induced constipation, one for rheumatoid arthritis and a drug called rifaximin for Crohn's disease and preventing complications of liver cirrhosis. Rifaximin is currently under review for a third use, treating irritable bowel syndrome. Last year, Salix reported total revenue of \$1.13 billion and a net loss of \$415 million. □

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



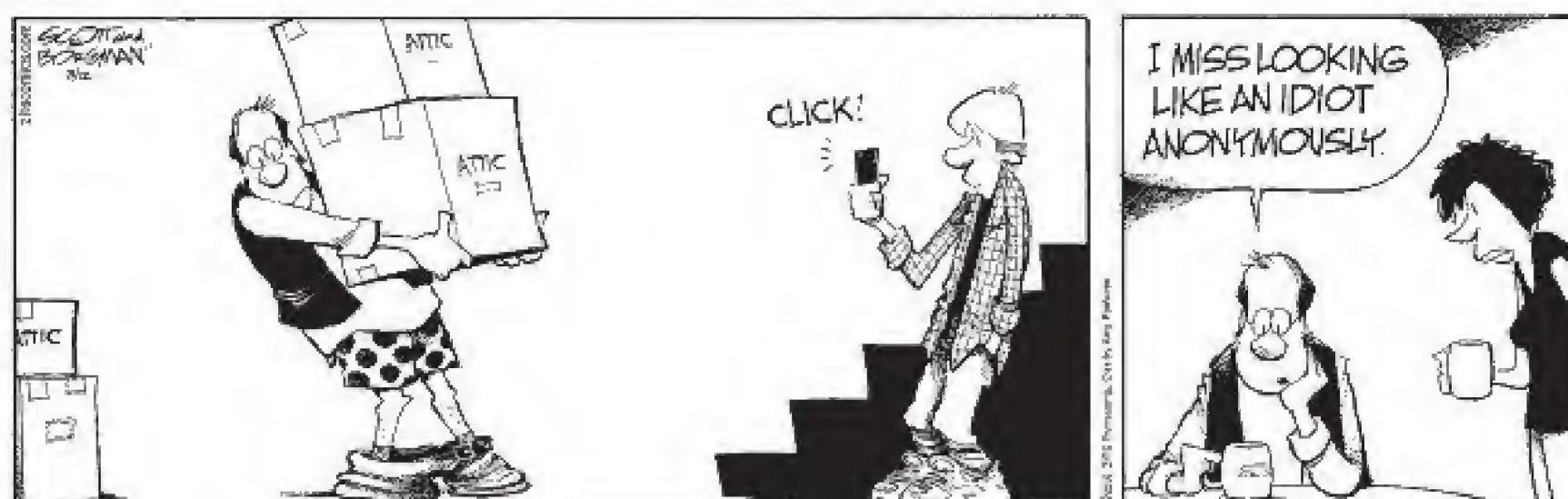
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

7		6		2			3
			6		1		
	8			1			4
8		9				2	
			2				
	6				9		8
9			8			3	
		5		4			
1			3		7		2

Difficulty Level ★★

3/12

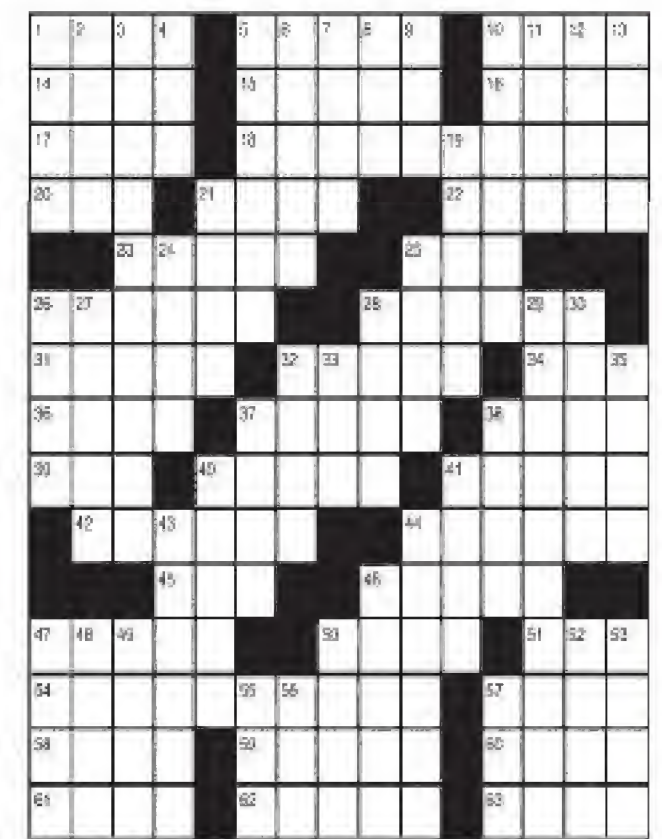
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

5	8	1	9	2	3	4	6	7
7	6	2	4	5	1	9	3	8
9	3	4	8	6	7	1	5	2
3	7	8	5	9	4	2	1	6
1	4	5	6	3	2	7	8	9
6	2	9	7	1	8	3	4	5
8	1	3	2	7	5	6	9	4
2	5	6	1	4	9	8	7	3
4	9	7	3	8	6	5	2	1

ACROSS

- 1 Umpire's cry
- 5 Weight reveler
- 10 Japanese wrestling form
- 14 "What's My ___?" of old TV
- 15 Sotbed
- 16 Strong ___ ox
- 17 Donation to a poor box
- 18 Western ___ our half of the Earth
- 20 Not ___ long shot; in no way
- 21 Tavern orders
- 22 Songbirds
- 23 ___ Peace Prize
- 25 Paver's goop
- 26 End a phone call
- 28 "The ___ of Oz"
- 31 Give a heads-up to
- 32 "...flowers that bloom in the spring, ___"



Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews

3/12/15

- 34 Lamb's mother
- 36 Grow weary
- 37 Use a loom
- 38 At that time
- 39 Actor Holbrook
- 40 Humiliation
- 41 Traffic sign
- 42 Solar ___; Sun and planets
- 44 Bicycle parts
- 45 2000 pounds
- 46 Not as vibrant in color
- 47 Shining
- 50 Aspirin, for one
- 51 Fathers of Jrs.
- 54 Record of a pupil's grades
- 57 Attack & injure
- 58 Small rodents
- 59 External
- 60 Additionally
- 61 Ran fast
- 62 Emotional
- 63 Vane letters

DOWN

- 1 Unwanted spare tire
- 2 Greasy

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

TEA	OPTED	PHIL
TEARS	GAUGE	RICE
ETCH	RINGS	ONES
SHAMELESS	ODDS	
PUSSE	ELF	
SPLITS	UPRISING	
TAINT	SPATS	NOR
RUNG	TESTS	NATO
ISE	FREES	PINES
PESKIE	REGESSES	
NBA	DANK	
ZERO	SUPERSEDE	
EXIT	UNITE	LOSS
TENT	FILES	SOPH
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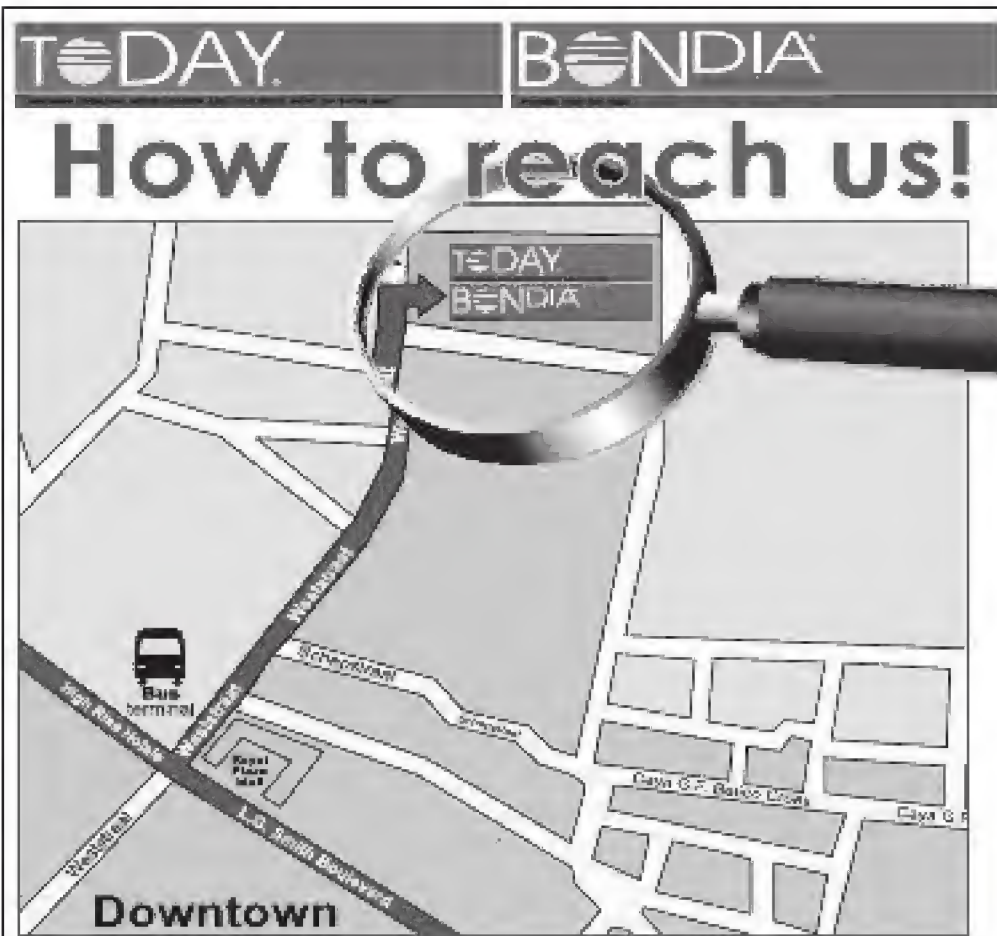
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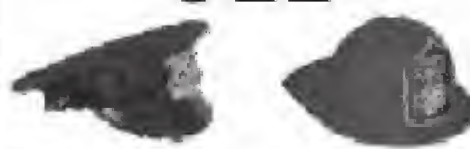
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24/7

Bomb-sniffing elephants? Not so nutty, US Army says

CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA
Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) —

Armed with a sharp sense of smell, dogs have a long history of detecting explosives for their human handlers. Trained rats sniff out land mines from old African wars. In Croatia, researchers have tried to train bees to identify TNT.

Now elephants. New research conducted in South Africa and involving the U.S. military shows they excel at identifying explosives by smell, stirring speculation about whether their extraordinary ability can save lives.

"They work it out very, very quickly," said Sean Hensman, co-owner of a game reserve where three elephants passed the smell tests by sniffing at buckets and getting a treat of marula, a tasty fruit, when they showed that they recognized samples of TNT, a common explosive, by raising a front leg. Another plus: elephants remember their training longer than dogs, said Stephen Lee, head scientist at the U.S. Army Research Office, a major funder of the research.

The research comes as elephant populations across Africa are threatened. Poachers across the continent have annually killed tens of thousands of elephants for their tusks in recent years because of a surge in demand for ivory in Asia, primarily



In this photo taken on Thursday, June 13, 2013 released by Adventures With Elephants, an elephant called Chishuru is rewarded by David, left, on the target mat for having completely a successful scent trial as colleague Sugar sits on top, in Bela-Bela, north of Pretoria, South Africa.

Associated Press

China. A pachyderm's potential prowess in detecting explosives was noticed in Angola, a country that many elephants had returned to after a 2002 peace deal ended a protracted war that saw many elephants being slaughtered.

While there was peace, the land remained sown with mine fields. Some elephants seemed to intentionally avoid them, though it might not have been a scent that kept them away — they could instead have

associated those areas with danger because elephants had died there in the past. Researchers were inspired to find out what was going on. Near Bela-Bela, a town north of the South African capital of Pretoria, elephants named Shan, Mussina and Chishuru were administered smelling tests. The elephants detected TNT samples 73 out of the 74 times that they encountered its odor in a line of buckets, said Ashadee Kay Miller, a zoology student at the school of animal,

plant and environmental sciences at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. In the same tests, the elephants wrongly identified only 18 out of 502 buckets as containing TNT, amounting to a 3.6 percent error rate, Miller said. In the buckets containing TNT, the explosive was dissolved in acetone on filter paper; only the acetone and filter paper were put in the other buckets. In a second set of tests, the elephants scored 100 percent, detecting TNT

in 23 out of 23 buckets when "distractor odors" of tea, bleach, soap and gasoline were placed in the other buckets, she said. Lugging around the huge mammals to mine fields wouldn't be practical, so one idea is to bring parts of the mine fields to them. Unmanned drones would collect scent samples from mined areas; a trained elephant would then smell them and alert handlers to any sign of explosives, Hensman said. Lee, of the U.S. Army, said another aim is to "replicate that sense of smell" and incorporate it into electronic sensors that detect dangerous materials, building on research with dogs and rats. Lee said researchers are also thinking of designing a sensor based on an elephant trunk, which puffs out air, stirring up an area, and then sucks in air to smell. Florida International University participated in the initial research, and it was done on a "shoestring" budget with volunteers, he said. The findings did not surprise George Wittemyer, an assistant professor at Colorado State University's department of fish, wildlife and conservation biology. Wittemyer, who was not involved in the South Africa survey, has studied elephants in Kenya. "Their world is primarily olfactory," he said. "The sensitivity is recognized as being unparalleled." □

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Modernizing 'Cinderella' with humanity and the right stars

LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — Everyone knows the tale of Cinderella.

The story of the beautiful girl who is forced into servitude by a wicked stepfamily, transformed for a night by magic, and saved by a nameless prince has been around for centuries. But while "Cinderella" is ingrained in the world's consciousness, it's also as outdated as a fairy tale can be.

So why are audiences now getting an expensive retelling of the passé bedtime story, 65 years after Disney released its animated classic and just months after the screen version of "Into the Woods" poked fun at the idea of insincere princes and delusional princesses?

For one, Disney's live-action adaptations of its animated properties have become big business for the studio. Between "Alice in Wonderland" (2010) and "Maleficent" (2014), Disney has grossed nearly \$2 billion worldwide from mining their archives for material to update. The studio already has a live-action "Beauty and the Beast" and an "Alice" sequel in development.

And yet, despite the too-obvious business objectives, there is nothing cynical about the latest "Cinderella," which hits theaters on Friday.

"I wanted Cinderella, without being entirely a dreamer, to see life not as it is but what it could be," says director Kenneth Branagh, who was excited to get the heroine out of a "time warp."

To cast his leads, Branagh applied the same theory as he did when helping to pick Chris Hemsworth for "Thor": Choose relative unknowns. He landed on Lily James of the British show "Downton Abbey" which airs on PBS, and Richard Madden, a vet of HBO's "Game of Thrones."

Instead of making "Cinderella" dark and gritty or dystopian, which Branagh believes have become clichéd, he and



In this Monday, March 2, 2015 photo, from left, Richard Madden, Lily James, and director Kenneth Branagh pose for a portrait during press day for "Cinderella" at the Montage Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

screenwriter Chris Weitz ("About a Boy") imagined a world where she's guided by a steadfast belief in kindness. It's a message that Ella learns as a child and holds dear as things worsen under the rule of her spiteful stepmother (Cate Blanchett) and vain, doltish stepsisters (Holliday Grainger and Sophie McShera).

The film succeeds because of its sincerity. "We couldn't ever jump out of the movie and say, 'You know, this is a bit silly and we're much cooler than this, by the way.' We're daring to take this seriously," Branagh said in a joint interview.

Branagh encouraged James to read Mohandas Gandhi's works and other writings on spiritual journeys to prepare for her role, hoping that she could incorporate the idea of nonviolent resistance into the character.

"We present this world where we see the grown-up Cinderella for the first time reading a book. There's a curious mind in the house. It's legit for her to have a sophisticated response to her position," Branagh said.

"The old fashioned view of a damsel in distress who needs a man to

come and save her from her life is irrelevant and not a message we should be telling children these days," added Madden. But Cinderella isn't the only one given depth. All the characters are crafted with complexities, including the prince.

"I just wanted to make a man who was worthy of

Cinderella's affections and love. She is this amazing, strong, brave woman. She doesn't need the prince," Madden said. The leads are lively and excitable together, even after weeks of international travel and hotel-bound press sessions and the knowledge that their promotional tour is not even close to finished.

Associated Press

Jazz musician Marsalis cancels Venezuela show amid tensions

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) —

American jazz trumpeter Wynton Marsalis is scratching a concert in Venezuela at a time of rising tensions that are making it harder for U.S. citizens to travel to the South American country. Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra were scheduled to perform Friday in Caracas and conduct workshops with the country's El Sistema network of youth ensembles.

The orchestra issued a statement that doesn't say why it's cancelling the appearance, but says its presence right now in Venezuela could distract from El Sistema's 40th anniversary celebration. President Nicolas Maduro



In this Sept. 20, 2014, file photo, musician Wynton Marsalis performs during a memorial service for actress Ruby Dee at The Riverside Church in New York.

Associated Press

last week ordered the U.S. to reduce the size of its Embassy and made it mandatory for American to

apply for a visa amid what he said are attempts by the U.S. to oust his socialist government. □

'Blurred Lines' verdict likely to alter music business

ANTHONY McCARTNEY

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A jury's verdict that Pharrell Williams and Robin Thicke copied Marvin Gaye's music to create their hit song "Blurred Lines" won't just be felt by the singer's pocketbooks — it has the potential to change how musicians work and could open the door to new copyright claims.

An eight-person jury determined Tuesday that Williams and Thicke copied elements of Gaye's 1977 hit "Got to Give It Up" and ordered the pair to pay nearly \$7.4 million to the late singer's three children. Gaye's daughter, Nona Gaye, wept as the verdict was read and later told reporters, "Right now, I feel free. Free from ... Pharrell Williams' and Robin Thicke's chains and what they tried to keep on us and the lies that were told."

The music industry may feel new constraints in the coming years as artists — and lawyers — sort through the verdict and its implications.

Howard King, lead attorney for Thicke and Williams, told jurors in closing arguments that a verdict for the Gaye family would have a chilling effect on musicians' trying to evoke an era or create an homage to the sound of earlier musicians. Williams contended during the trial that he was only trying to mimic the "feel"



In this Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015 file photo, singer Robin Thicke performs at the 17th Annual GRAMMY Foundation Legacy Concert at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

of Gaye's late 1970s music, but insisted he did not use elements of his idol's work. "Today's successful verdict, with the odds more than stacked against the Marvin Gaye estate, could redefine what copyright infringement means for recording artists," said Glen Rothstein, an intellectual property attorney with the firm Greenberg Glusker.

"The Gaye verdict is

precedential in that whereas prior to today, it was generally understood that paying homage to musical influences was an acceptable, and indeed commonplace way of conducting business and even showing respect for one's musical idols, after today, doubt has been cast on where the line will be drawn for copyright infringement

purposes," Rothstein said. The Gaye family will seek an injunction against "Blurred Lines," which will give them leverage to negotiate for royalties and other concessions such as songwriting credits.

Music copyright trials are rare, but allegations that a song copies another artist's work are common. Recently, singers Sam Smith and Tom Petty reached an agreement that conferred songwriting credit to Petty on Smith's song, "Stay With Me." The agreement was reached because Smith's song resembled Petty's hit "I Won't Back Down."

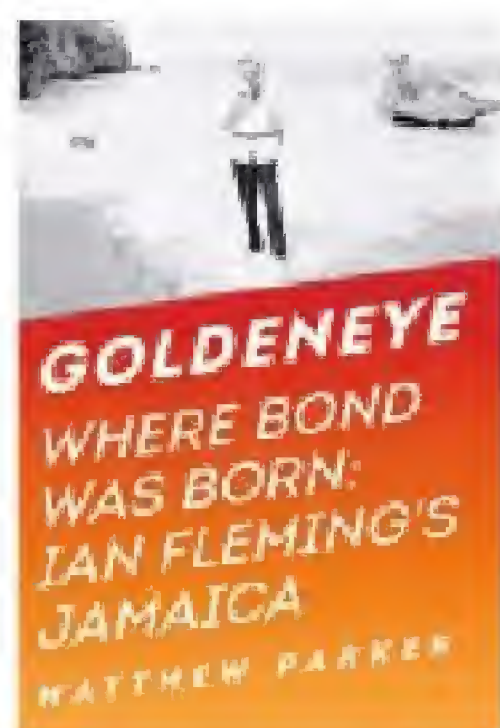
"Unfortunately, today's jury verdict has blurred the lines between protectable elements of a musical composition and the unprotectable musical style or groove exemplified by Marvin Gaye," said Larry Iser, an intellectual property lawyer who has represented numerous musicians, including Jackson Browne and David Byrne, in music copyright cases. "Although Gaye was the Prince of Soul, he didn't own a copyright to the genre, and Thicke and Williams' homage to the feel of Marvin Gaye is not infringing." King, who also represents numerous musicians, said record labels are going to become more reluctant to release music that's similar to other works. That assertion was mocked by Richard Busch,

the lead attorney for the Gaye family. "While Mr. Williams' lawyer suggested in his closing argument that the world would come to an end, and music would cease to exist if they were found liable, I still see the sun shining. I still see the wind blowing, and I still see the clouds in the sky. The world has not come to an end," Busch said after the verdict. Williams is a seven-time Grammy Award winner whose songs that he's either performed or produced have sold more than 100 million copies worldwide. His hit "Happy" has helped make him a household name, as has his work as a judge on NBC's singing competition show, "The Voice." Feminists have criticized Williams for producing "Blurred Lines," which they say promotes rape culture.

Thicke's career may have more issues as a result of Tuesday's verdict, since "Blurred Lines" was a global hit and his follow-up effort failed to connect with audiences, Levy said.

Despite the verdict, Levy predicted that "Blurred Lines" will continue to make plenty of money for Williams, Thicke and in all likelihood the Gaye family. "People aren't going to stop playing it," Levy said, adding that it will one day achieve a nostalgic status that other artists' songs now have. "It's not just going to disappear." □

Review: 'Goldeneye' explores Ian Fleming's Jamaican retreat



This book cover image released by Pegasus Books shows "Goldeneye: Where Bond Was Born: Ian Fleming's Jamaica," by Matthew Parker. **Associated Press**

JENNIFER KAY

Associated Press

"Goldeneye" (Pegasus Books), by Matthew Parker James Bond is a British icon, but the fictional spy hero really was born in Jamaica, just as the Caribbean island gained its independence from the waning British empire. The relationship between Bond's author, Ian Fleming, and the island where he sought to escape from dreary post-war Britain is explored in Matthew Parker's unique biography, "Goldeneye."

Fleming wrote all the Bond short stories and novels,

which inspired an ongoing series of blockbuster films, at his Goldeneye estate on Jamaica's northern shore. He spent two months every year, from 1946 through his death in 1964, at Goldeneye, and for a while his own boozy, cigarette-fueled seductions rivaled those he created for Bond. Fleming's neighbor in Jamaica was the British actor and playwright Noel Coward, and Parker carefully compares and dissects how the island and its residents are depicted in each man's writing. Mostly, they viewed Jamaica as a backdrop, at best,

where the "island natives" are cheerful and sexy but never threatening.

The fading of an empire weighed on Fleming as he developed escapist fantasies for Bond, the paragon of British intelligence and power. He found rich source material in Jamaican waters for Bond's underwater action scenes, but he rarely troubled himself with island drama beyond his jet-set social circle.

Parker explores where Fleming would not, delving into Jamaica's politics and economy, the legacy of 300 years

of colonial rule and the emergence of the island as a tourist destination, a development fueled partly by the glamour projected by Fleming and his friends. He also spells out what Coward and Fleming didn't see coming — that their tropical-yet-British hideaway would be short-lived, and the island was ready for a change.

Parker's "Goldeneye" is an appealing Caribbean history dressed as pop culture, and he adds complexity to Bond's legacy of vodka martinis, car chases and women in bikinis. □

Bullets Over Washington



JOE NOCERA
© 2015 New York Times

In 1986, Congress passed, and Ronald Reagan signed into law, the Law Enforcement Officers Protection Act. It directed the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to ban certain types of ammunition that could pierce the body armor worn by police officers. The National Rifle Association had originally opposed the legislation - which, in fact, was one of a series of events that caused a split between the NRA and most police associations - but the logic behind it was irrefutable.

"Certain forms of ammunition have no legitimate sporting, recreational or self-defense use and thus should be prohibited," Reagan said during the signing ceremony. The House of Representatives passed the measure by a vote of 400-21.

When the ATF wrote the regulations to outlaw "cop-killer bullets," as they were known, the agency made an important distinction between two kinds of armor-piercing bullets. Those that were used primarily for "sporting purposes" were still allowed, but those that could be used in handguns were banned. As a practical matter, this meant that the agency was permitting rifle ammunition on the theory that rifles represented sporting weapons. But criminals are likely to use handguns, which they can better hide on their person. Although some armor-piercing bullets were ultimately banned, the regulations were largely uncontroversial.

My, how things have changed. One thing that has changed is the handguns. Seven or eight years ago, makers of assault rifles like the popular AR-15 began making handgun versions of these powerful weapons. These handguns use the same bullets as the assault rifles, including some that are armor-piercing. In addition, since 2011, the ATF has received numerous requests from manufacturers to "exempt" ammunition they want to sell - in effect, categorizing armor-piercing handgun bullets as being primarily for sporting purposes.

Quite sensibly, the ATF realized it needed to take another look at the issue of whether certain armor-piercing bullets that had long been associated with rifles were now more problematic because they could be used in these new, more lethal handguns. Agency employees met with industry representatives and law enforcement officials. And last month, the ATF published

a document outlining a new framework for deciding whether certain bullets that had been exempt should now be banned. One bullet in particular, widely used by AR-15 owners and described by the ATF as "5.56-mm projectiles in SS109 and M855 cartridges," would be banned under the new framework. Why? Because if used in handguns, they could kill cops.

Which, of course, leads to the second thing that has changed. Congress no longer passes bills opposed by the NRA, even if the intent is to save the lives of police officers. Indeed, in the Obama era, the right-wing echo chamber is quick to label even an effort as benign - and as sane - as the ATF's proposed framework as yet another example of the president abusing his authority. The NRA quickly labeled President Barack Obama a "dictator."

"Pro-gun bloggers screamed about this latest assault on their Second Amendment rights. '[Obama] wants to take guns out of everybody's hands, and if he can't do that, he's gonna take the bullets,'" said Mr. Echo Chamber himself, Rush Limbaugh.

And Congress? This week, 239 House members - more than half of the House of Representatives - sent a letter to B. Todd Jones, the director of the ATF, telling him, in effect, to buzz off. ("The effects of these restrictive interpretations are untenable.") Jones will soon be getting a similar letter from the Senate side. It is hard to imagine that the ATF, already under siege, thanks to its botched Operation Fast and Furious, will be able to withstand this much congressional pressure.

On Friday morning, I spoke to one of the more thoughtful House conservatives, Scott Rigell of Virginia, who had signed on to the letter. I told him I couldn't understand why there was such a furor over armor-piercing bullets that could kill police officers.

"When I first heard about this," he said, "I was truly stunned." Rigell had three objections. First, the ammunition in question is widely available and has never been a problem for the police. Second, he agreed with those who said that the administration was trying to impose its "deeply held views" on the country by fiat. And third, he felt that this could be the proverbial slippery slope.

"If you conclude that this round is armor-piercing, then you have opened the dam completely," he said.

On Friday afternoon, however, I spoke to J. Thomas Manger, the chief of the Montgomery County, Maryland, police department, and the president of the Major Cities Chiefs Association, which supports the ATF effort.

"Congress has asked them to make these kinds of decisions, and Congress should heed their recommendation," he said. When I mentioned that armor-piercing ammunition used to be called cop-killer bullets, he quickly corrected me.

"They're still called cop-killing bullets," Manger said. "I think every cop understands that."



Only the Shadow Knows



MAUREEN DOWD
© 2015 New York Times

WASHINGTON - Somewhere in Smithsonian storage sits a portrait of Bill Clinton with two odd features: He is standing next to a shadow meant to conjure Monica Lewinsky's blue dress, and he is not wearing his gold wedding ring.

As we have been reminded by a recent wild cascade of stories, everything about the Clintons is convoluted. Nothing is simple, even a celebratory portrait.

Nelson Shanks, picked by Clinton to do his portrait for the National Portrait Gallery, revealed to the Philadelphia Daily News that he had used a blue dress on a mannequin to evoke the shadow of the Lewinsky scandal in the portrait.

I called the 77-year-old artist to ask about his devilish punning.

"It's an extra little kick going on in the painting," he said. "It was a bit humorous, but there was also a sort of authenticity to it. To do a Pollyanna, basically meaningless, symbolically neutral painting of somebody that has had a powerful influence on society is really copping out." He said that Clinton's lack of a wedding band has no ulterior meaning, noting: "I just forgot the ring." But Clinton aides weren't buying it. He said when the omission first made news after the portrait was unveiled in 2006, Hillary Clinton sent him "a lovely little note saying don't worry about it, this is just a tempest in a teapot."

In a blog post last week, Eugénie Bisulco, a Clinton administration staffer who led the search team for a White House portrait artist,

said it wasn't Shanks' attempt to put in "a moral compass" that grated. (The Clintons didn't even know about that.) Bisulco said it was that the portrait made Clinton look like "a disheveled Ted Koppel."

Other Clintonistas dismissed the allegorical shadow as "put-a-bunny-in-the-pot crazy."

Shanks said it was "like an ice pick going through my back" when he learned that his portrait was "exiled to the dark recesses" in 2009. On a visit to the museum a year and a half ago, he heard a docent telling a tour group that the Clintons put the kibosh on the painting.

He asked Kim Sajet, now director of the National Portrait Gallery, and she confirmed his darkest fears in an email, saying that they took it down because the Clintons disliked it. But, in response to a query, Sajet admitted that she was "repeating unfounded gossip," according to a spokeswoman, and insisted that the painting is merely in rotation. Shortly after the art imbroglio broke, an email imbroglio broke. The Times' Michael Schmidt reported that, as secretary of state, Hillary did not preserve her official correspondence on a government server and exclusively used a private email account. She used a private server linked to her Chappaqua home, only turning over cherry-picked messages in December at the State Department's request.

Given the paranoid/legalese perspective that permeates Clintonland, this made sense: It's hard to request emails from an account you don't know exists. And your own server can shield you from subpoenas and other requests. If you want records from the Clinton server, you have to fight for them. Clinton Inc. can tough it out and even make stuff disappear. Instead of warning the secretary that she could be violating regulations, her aides fetishized her clintonemail.com account as a status symbol. Chelsea took on the pseudonym Diane Reynolds.

Near midnight on Wednesday, Hillary tweeted that she had asked the State Department

to release the emails she had coughed up when pressed, noting: "I want the public to see my email."

Less true words were never spoken.

Schmidt's scoop followed The Wall Street Journal revelation that at least 60 companies that lobbied the State Department when Hillary was in charge had funneled more than \$26 million to the Clinton Foundation.

Certainly, Hillary wants a lot of control. She has spent a lifetime cleaning up messes sparked by her overweening desire for control and her often out-of-control mate. She always feared that her emails could become fodder for critics, and now they have.

Everyone is looking for signs in how Hillary approaches 2016 to see whether she's learned lessons from past trouble. But the minute this story broke, she went back to the bunker, even though she had known for months that the Republicans knew about the account. The usual hatchets - Philippe Reines, David Brock, Lanny Davis and Sidney Blumenthal - got busy.

The Clintons don't sparkle with honesty and openness. Between his lordly appetites and her queenly prerogatives, you always feel as if there's something afoot. Everything needs to be a secret, from the Rose Law Firm records that popped up in a White House closet two years after they were subpoenaed to the formulation of her health care plan.

Yet the Clintons always act as though it's bad form when you bring up their rule-bending. They want us to compartmentalize, just as they do, to connect the dots that form a pretty picture and leave the other dots alone. If you're aspiring to be the second president in the family, why is it so hard to be straight and direct and stand for something? Why can't you just be upright and steady and good?

Given all the mistakes they've made, why do they keep making them? Why do they somehow never do anything that doesn't involve shadows?



Irish Stew with lamb and potatoes in New York. With St. Patrick's Day just around the corner, you may be thinking about corned beef and cabbage, and there's nothing wrong with that, but it's Irish-American. For something that may actually be served on Irish soil, have a go at a proper Irish stew.

(Evan Sung/The New York Times)

A Proper Stew for St. Patrick's Day

DAVID TANIS

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With St. Patrick's Day just around the corner, you may be thinking about corned beef and cabbage. There's nothing wrong with it, but that's Irish-American. For something that may actually be served on Irish soil, have a go at a proper Irish stew. The epitome of comfort food, traditional Irish stew needs only a few ingredients: meat, onions and potatoes, with salt and pepper. In southern Ireland, carrots are added, and some cooks venture so far as to add turnips, parsnips or rutabaga. Parsley or a sprig of thyme may go into the pot, too. For a true Irish stew, sticklers say, you must use mutton. But it's not so easy to find mutton in North America. Mutton is meat from a grown-up sheep, at least 2 years old. It has a some-

what pronounced flavor and requires a fair amount of cooking time.

Hogget makes a good stew, too, but you probably won't find that, either. It's the same creature in adolescent form, when it's not yet mutton but no longer lamb - 1 to 2 years old. Thankfully, a fine stew can also be made with lamb, which is a year old or less, and there is lots of lamb available here. Lamb used to be strictly a springtime treat, but modern husbandry has made it possible to have it in every season. It is mild tasting and tender, good for roasting and grilling, as well as braising.

As for how to cook it, most agree the meat should be browned first, but there are those who simply throw everything into the pot and let it all gently simmer. Slow cooking is key. As with all stews, making it

a day ahead yields better results and helps with degreasing.

Depending upon preference, Irish stew may be served plain and brothy (rather like a pot-au-feu), or in a thicker gravy. You can rely on disintegrating potatoes to thicken it a bit, or a flour-and-water slurry or roux may be used. Some cooks add a little barley at the beginning instead.

The Irish chef Darina Allen, of Ballymaloe Cookery School in County Cork, suggests layering the meat and vegetables but leaving the potatoes at the top of the pot before putting on the lid, so they hold their shape and steam while the stew cooks - a very nice idea. Despite all these variables, this much is sure: The aromas from the kitchen will be heavenly.

IRISH STEW

Time: 1 1/2 hours

Yield: 6 to 8 servings

3 pounds lamb shoulder cut in 2-inch chunks (or use thick shoulder chops)
Salt and pepper

4 tablespoons vegetable oil

2 pounds onions (about 6 medium), cut in wedges

1 pound carrots (about 6 medium), cut in 3-inch lengths

4 cups chicken, veal or beef broth (or water)

1 large sprig thyme

3 pounds russet potatoes (about 12 small), peeled and halved, or cut in 2-inch thick slices

1. Pat lamb dry and season well with salt and pepper. Put oil in a heavy-bottomed soup pot over medium-high heat. Brown meat on all sides, working in batches.

2. Set meat aside and add onions and carrots to pot. Season with salt and pep-

per. Cook vegetables, stirring, until lightly browned, about 5 minutes. Heat oven to 350 degrees.

3. Return meat to pot, add broth and bring to a simmer. Put in thyme sprig and arrange potatoes on top. (It's fine if potatoes are not completely submerged.) Season potatoes, cover pot and transfer to oven.

4. Bake for about 1 hour, until lamb is quite tender when probed with a skewer or paring knife. Remove fat from top of broth. Ladle stew into shallow bowls and serve.

Note: Alternatively, cook stew on stovetop instead of baking; keep covered at a gentle simmer for about 1 hour. For a thicker stew, crush a few of the potatoes from the stew and simmer in broth, or thicken with a slurry of flour and water (about 4 tablespoons flour). □